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UN Conference To Discuss High Technology Dilemma

*OW1604144590 Tokyo KYODO in English
1256 GMT 16 Apr 90*

[By Jerome Sayre]

[Text] Sendai, April 16 KYODO—The United Nations opened its annual conference on disarmament Monday to discuss ways of preventing high technology from being used for military purposes by a growing number of countries.

Over 40 diplomats and scientists from 21 countries will confront the dilemma of how to promote transfers of technology while limiting its military applications during four days of discussions in this industrial center in northeastern Japan.

U.N. Undersecretary General for Disarmament Yasushi Akashi said in his opening address that "a mixture of hope and apprehension" accompanies rapid technological change.

The same technology applicable to new weapons is also needed for developing ways to verify the integrity of arms control accords, he said.

Akashi said the drastic lessening of East-West tensions is shifting the focus of arms control efforts to the Third World.

U.S.-Soviet accords in the START [Strategic Arms Reduction Talks] nuclear disarmament talks and negotiations on cutting conventional forces in Europe are expected by the end of the year.

But while the overall volume of arms sales to the Third World has fallen, the spread of more potent war technology to developing countries is continuing, according to Ian Anthony of the Swedish peace research institute Sipri. Anthony and fellow speaker Alan Shaw, an arms control specialist for the U.S. Congress, agreed that the dissemination of "old" military knowhow could fuel regional arms races. Shaw pointed to the irony of declining East-West tensions which drove arms manufacturers in developed countries to the "aggressive marketing of advanced weapons" on the global market. Countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, China, India, and Indonesia also have formidable arms industries, he said.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky used his address to the conference to propose East-West talks on formulating rules for the transfer of technologies with both military and civilian uses. Inspections to verify the nonlethal application of such technologies could be implemented, he said. Petrovsky proposed the scheme after calling for an end to Cocom [Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls] rules among the Western allies which ban the transfer of militarily useful technologies to the East bloc.

Both Petrovsky and the U.S. keynote speaker, Congressman George Brown, advanced concepts of security going beyond that of weapons counts. Environmental problems and economic disparities are now the real security concerns of the global community.

Brown, a ranking member of the U.S. House committee on science, said the postwar nuclear standoff failed to provide meaningful security. Science and technical knowhow must be directed to sustaining economic development if the potential for military conflict is to be reduced. The distribution of basic existing technologies is more vital to maintaining global security than the need for new technology, he argued.

In a swipe at the U.S. "Star Wars" scheme, Petrovsky suggested a "strategic enviromental initiative" was needed to attack on global warming and other problems.

He also repeated a proposal made last week by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that joint environmental research be conducted with Japan in the Kurile Islands.

The conference will combine sessions on diplomatic approaches to disarmament with technological workshops in five different areas. Workshops on material, information, space, nuclear, and biotechnologies are also scheduled.

In a brief pre-conference meeting with the press, Akashi said he hoped the shedding of official affiliations would allow participants to "brainstorm" on creative approaches to the disarmament.

Conflicting views of nuclear deterrence and the role of chemical weapons as the poor man's "atomic bomb" highlighted the first U.N. disarmament conference, which was held in Kyoto last April.

Japan

Revision of Supercomputer Procurement Procedures

OW2004035090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—The Japanese Government Thursday decided to revise the formalities to be followed by government agencies in procuring supercomputers, in accordance with an agreement reached with the U.S. Government.

One feature of the new formalities, which become effective on May 1, is that government agencies, in deciding on target purchase price ranges for supercomputers in seeking an appropriation or inviting bids, will check actual private-sector trading prices as much as possible and use the prices thus obtained as the basis for the target price ranges. Another feature is that an overall evaluation of bids in the target purchase price ranges will be made with due consideration given to the prices, technology and function of the computers, so as to enable the procurement agencies to choose the most favorable machines. A third feature is that a technological check-up will be made with the computers, using the actual systems.

The revised formalities will apply to 300-megaflop (floating point operations per second) or higher-performance supercomputers instead of the present 100-megaflop ones. The government also decided to set up an independent committee to handle grievance and trouble in supercomputer procurement.

U.S. Firms Obtaining New Construction Contracts

OW1904140990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—A 1988 accord between Japan and the United States on widening foreign access to Japan's construction market has allowed 26 foreign concerns to obtain construction licenses in Japan to date, but they are still finding it difficult to secure lucractive contracts.

Foreign firms are also trying to crack the intensely competitive market, dominated by Japanese builders, through business tie-ups with local counterparts. Since Japan signed the accord in May 1988, 23 foreign companies have made such tie-ups with Japanese companies, according to the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors, a trade group of local builders.

Some industry officials have praised these developments as evidence of smooth progress in the opening of the market, but others are fearful that U.S. complaints will continue as there are still relatively few contracts that have gone to foreign firms.

Schal Associates Inc., a medium-sized construction company based in Chicago, is among the few winners, having secured a 17.95 billion yen bid jointly with eight Japanese concerns for a 32-story hotel and convention center in Yokohama, one of the 17 public projects opened under the 1988 accord to U.S. participation. Schal, one of 13 U.S. builders with Japanese construction licenses, has been well received by its Japanese partners in the construction project, part of a large-scale seaside development plan called "Minato-Mirai 21."

"Schal is doing its job seriously although this contract is not profitable," said an official at Toda Construction Co., which heads the eight-member Japanese consortium. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Schal is an exception among U.S. contractors, which he said would withdraw from their jobs when they discover the returns are low.

In fact, Brown and Root Inc., an engineering firm based in Houston, Texas, gave up in June 1989 the construction license it had obtained four months before on the grounds that profits from Japanese public works and other construction jobs are slim.

Some U.S. companies, however, said they are optimistic about their business prospects in Japan. "We don't think Japan's construction market is closed. We're counting on bright hopes for our business here," said an official at J.A. Jones Construction Co., a U.S. building company which became eligible to undertake Japanese construction works last month.

But some Japanese officials say pressures from abroad would grow to allow foreign firms to gain lucrative jobs in step with the increasing number of foreign contractors in Japan.

Electronics Firms Urged To Buy Foreign Chips

OW2004111890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Friday urged Japanese electronics makers to forge market access plans to further boost their purchase of foreign computer chips. The request was made at the MITI-sponsored meeting for expansion of foreign semiconductors' market access, attended by some 300 Japanese chip users and 200 U.S. and European diplomats.

MITI called on the Japanese attendants to adopt market access plans and to establish special internal committees to promote implementation of such plans. The ministry also recommended Japanese companies allow for more foreign semiconductors to be included in their product designs and to expand joint chip ventures with foreign manufacturers.

Japanese makers explained their own plans to delegates to buy more foreign chips and embark on joint chip development ventures with foreign makers in an effort to push up the foreign share in the market.

In a 1986 semiconductor agreement with the U.S., Japan apparently agreed to a goal of 20 percent of the Japanese market for foreign semiconductors by July 1991, when the agreement expires.

The share of foreign chips increased to near 13 percent in the last quarter of 1989, according to the world semiconductor trade statistics. But U.S. chipmakers are apparently not satisfied with the progress, and asked the White House to launch new unfair trade practices proceedings against Japanese producers under the Super 301 provision of the 1987 U.S. Omnibus Trade Act.

In a March report on foreign trade barriers, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills cited the Japanese semiconductor market as one of 34 possible Super 301 targets. Japanese trade officials and electronics makers have been concerned that Japan's chip market may be put on the Super 301 "hit list" expected to be released at the end of April.

In order to avoid being cited by the U.S. as an "unfair trader," Japanese companies have been exerting considerable effort to increase their foreign chip purchases.

Among major electronics makers, NEC Corp., Mitsubishi Electric Corp., and Oki Electric Industry Co. have already achieved the 20 percent goal in their foreign chip purchases. Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., and Toshiba Corp. are also expected to attain the target in Fiscal 1990. Sony Corp. has also announced a plan to raise its share of foreign chips to 20 percent by July 1991.

The MITI meeting was partly aimed at demonstrating Japanese industry efforts to boost foreign chip purchases before the scheduled annuncement of the Super 301 blacklist.

Ishikawa Rules Out Return to 'Military Power'

OW2004061390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa ruled out the possibility Friday that Japan will someday become a military power. The state minister was referring at a press conference to the recently released Pentagon report on U.S. defense strategies for Asia and the Pacific rim.

Ishikawa said, "There is absolutely no fear that Japan could become a military power" as a matter of national policy and added the Defense Agency is following fundamental principles to provide for the nation's defense.

In the report entitled "A Strategic Framework for the Asian Pacific Rim," the Pentagon objectives regarding Japan included "discouraging any destablizing development of a power projection capability." Ishikawa, however, said it would be "impossible" to maintain any military capability which would abandon the nation's defense policies.

The Defense Agency chief said he would like to discuss U.S. Far East strategic plans and Japan's defense policies with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, but he did not specify a date.

The Pentagon report also called for Japan to shoulder more of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops in Japan in the future, but Ishikawa said, "This is not covered by the current U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement." The report, obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Washington on Wednesday, was based partly on Cheney's February trip to Asia and outlined a plan for limited troop reductions in the area and increased defense burden sharing by Japan and South Korea.

Life Insurance Official on U.S. Bond Purchases

OW2004113690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—A top life insurance industry official hinted Friday that Japanese life insurance companies would reduce their purchases of U.S. treasury bonds in the next auction in early May. Takahide Sakurai, chairman of the Life Insurance Association of Japan, made the suggestion in remarks at a press conference when asked about the Japanese attitude toward the coming auction. "Given U.S. treasury prices have become unstable, we have to be more cautious to some extent than in the past," Sakurai said. Sakurai is also president of Dai-Ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Japanese life insurance firms have been major buyers of U.S. treasury bonds in past auctions, taking in 25 to 35 percent of the bonds offered. Sakurai cited the recent volatility of exchange rates as a factor behind his cautious stance on investment in U.S. government bonds, pointing to possible foreign-exchange losses from such investment. He also singled out his company's strategy to diversify investment targets by buying European securities. But Sakurai said each institution, including his own, would keep watching developments in exchange markets until the last moment before making a final decision on bids prior to the auction. Japanese life insurance companies have previously purchased massive amounts of dollars for investment in U.S. bonds before treasury auctions. Because of this, currency dealers have been carefully monitoring institutions to gauge how they will bid in the coming auction.

Moscow Urged To Lift Embargo Against Lithuania

OW2004030690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0247 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday expressed "strong concern" over the economic sanctions Moscow imposed on Lithuania and urged the Soviet leadership to lift the oil and natural gas embargo against the rebel republic. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, in announcing the government stand, also said Japan has maintained close contacts with the United States on the situation. He refused to provide further details on the nature of talks between Japan and the United States.

"We are considering what appropriate countermeasures are needed" to cope with the situation in Lithuania, Sakamoto said.

The Japanese Government is deeply concerned over the situation and hopes Moscow would lift the sanctions and settle the dispute with Lithuania through talks, Sakamoto said. He said the cabinet took up the Lithuania issue in a biweekly regular session Friday morning, and cabinet members were briefed on the situation through the Foreign Ministry.

He said the Japanese Embassy in Moscow has confirmed that Moscow has cut off the supply of crude oil and curtailed natural gas shipments to Lithuania.

Soviet Envoy Replies

OW2004121790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan on Friday expressed concern over the Soviet Union's economic sanctions on Lithuania and urged Moscow to lift its oil and natural gas embargo against the Baltic republic, officials said.

The Foreign Ministry summoned Soviet Ambassador to Japan Nikolay Solovyev and conveyed the message from Acting Foreign Minister Misoji Sakamoto.

Solovyev replied that the matter is an internal affair of the Soviet Union, the officials said.

Earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, who is acting foreign minister in the absence of Taro Nakayama, issued a statement and called for talks between Moscow and Lithuania in order to settle the dispute involving Lithuania's declaration of independence.

Sanyo Asked Not To Build Plant in Lithuania

OW2004123690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. said Friday the Soviet Union has asked a Japanese consortium to build a refrigerator compressor plant in White Russia instead of in Lithuania as initially planned. The consortium, made up of Nissho Iwai Corp. and Toyo Engineering Corp. in addition to Sanyo, was earlier awarded an 18 billion yen refrigerator compressor plant improvement and construction contract by the Soviet Union, Sanyo officials said.

The officials said it is believed that the Soviets made the request to avoid the risk involved in Lithuania's moves toward independence. However, some analysts here saw it as part of the Soviet Union's economic sanctions against the Baltic republic.

The three Japanese partners have begun study of the Soviet request. The trio signed the contract with v/o Tekhnopromimport, the Soviet light, food, electrotechnical, and electronics industries equipment import corporation, in January. The contract calls for the improvement of an existing refrigerator compressor plant in Lithuania and the construction of a new compressor plant there with a capacity of 2 million compressors a year by the end of 1992.

Soviet Official on Japan's Security Council Seat

OW1904154190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1505 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—A senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official in charge of United Nations affairs said here Thursday that no member of the international body is outwardly contemplating Japan's admission to the 15-nation Security Council as a permanent member. Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy, in Japan to attend a U.N. disarmament conference, made the remarks to reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

"To (obtain) a permanent place on the Security Council, you need to change the U.N. Charter," Petrovskiy said in response to a reporter's query. "At this particular moment, neither East nor West, neither South nor North are interested in changing the U.N. Charter," he said.

The Security Council is the U.N. body responsible for the maintenance of international security and peace. Its five permanent seats are held by the five major powers who emerged victorious at the end of World War II—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Under the charter, the other 10 rotating nonpermanent seats are filled through elections in the U.N. General Assembly, with countries chosen primarily on the basis of their regional grouping.

Petrovsky said that while Japan's expanding role in the U.N. is a welcome development, talk of changing the charter is taboo in the international body as there are people who are "afraid of starting some kind of chain reaction."

Although opinions on the issue appear to be divided in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, one official concurred with the Pandora's box theory of the Soviet deputy minister. "If the number of permanent members of the Security Council were to be increased, Japan would not be the only candidate," the official said. Other major powers such as India and a United Germany would also want to have a shot at the Council, he indicated," while regional imbalances would also have to be addressed."

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was quoted as saying in a recent interview with the French daily LE FIGARO that he objects to Japan's admission to the Security Council as a permanent member.

De Cuellar reportedly reasoned that he would not like to see an increase in the number of powers capable of vetoing resolutions.

Petrovskiy suggested that a better option for such countries as Japan would be to take better advantage of certain articles contained in the U.N. Charter as it now stands. "It still provides a lot of unused opportunity," he said, likening the document to "a sleeping beauty."

Some Japanese observers who see the present setup as a relic from a bygone era have argued that Japan deserves a permanent seat on the Council in recognition of its role as a world economic power and its bankrolling of U.N. activities. One Foreign Ministry official said what irks some diplomats even more is the continued existence of a clause in the charter naming Japan as an enemy country.

Soviet Official Urges Asia To Emulate Europe

OW1904125690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said here Thursday that the constructive peace process in Europe can serve as a model for Asia to strengthen multilateral dialogue and implement confidence-building measures. Petrovskiy also suggested that his country, which spans both continents, could serve as a vital link between Europe and Asia in promoting a reduction in military confrontation and bolstering multilateral cooperation.

Speaking to reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, Petrovskiy predicted that in the wake of the next Soviet-U.S summit in June, the world will witness "a globalization" of the disarmament question. Accordingly, he proposed the eventual creation of a new "Eurasian structure of security" to provide for peace and stability in what he called "the post-confrontational period."

The Soviet official explained that the qualitative transformation of East-West relations has created a need for such a new "strong conceptual framework" bringing together both sides of the Euroasian land mass. But he indicated that the laggardly peace process in Asia must first catch up with that in Europe before the proposed intercontinental framework can be realized.

Petrovskiy said Asia should look to the European experience as a model, pointing out that European nations have shown "collective concerns" and followed them up with "collective actions." He pointed to the wide and frequent contacts taking place in Europe between government officials, experts, and opinion leaders.

"Of course this Asian process should not be an exact replica of the European process," Petrovskiy acknowledged, noting that the concerns of the two regions differ in relation to their geopolitical environments.

Petrovskiy said Asia is ready to begin implementation of a series of confidence building measures (CBM's), or steps to decrease the level of military and political confrontation. "But I'm against automaticaly applying (the same kind of) confidence-building measures in Europe here to Asia," he said. "In Asia, we could start it in a different way."

Noting that Asian countries harbor a greater concern with matters relating to the sea, he said, "that would be a good place to start."

Japan and the United States have resisted repeated Soviet CBM overtures, charging that Moscow ultimately aims at undermining the two countries' dependence on naval power. But government sources said earlier this week that Japan is now ready to accede to some proposals to encourage the rooting of East-West detente in Asia, including interchanges between Japanese and Soviet military officers and the conclusion of arrangements to prevent accidental clashes.

As initial CBM steps in Asia, Petrovskiy suggested improving sea lines of communication, coordinating measures to prevent terrorism, and taking "certain actions which would make us much more sure about the activities of the (naval) fleets in this area."

Potential areas for future CBM cooperation, he said, would be development of mechanisms for "preventive diplomacy" to nip potential conflicts in the bud and promotion of nonproliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons. The vice minister also proposed "limiting naval activity" and undertaking "radical reductions of armed forces and armaments."

Petrovskiy refuted a reporter's suggestion that the Soviet scheme would be difficult to implement in light of the lack of political change in North Korea, Vietnam, and China. "We are feeling that, in many respects, these countries are open to starting a very serious dialogue," he asserted.

French Defense Minister Continues Visit, Talks

OW1904140390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—France's defense minister said on Thursday mutual interests between Japan and France in Southeast Asian, Middle East and East European stability called for a strengthening of ties. In a press conference at the Japan National Press Club, Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement also referred to earlier proposals to increase bilateral technical cooperation.

Chevenement said strenthening ties between Japan and Europe, now the weak link in the U.S.-Japan-Europe triangle, was the central reason for his visit. Both Europe and Japan, he said, relied on oil from the Middle East and had a strong interest in maintaining a stable supply.

Events in East Europe and the Soviet Union will also impact heavily on both countries, he said, pointing out that arms reductions being negotiated in Geneva and elsewhere specified the destruction of weapons, preventing their transfer to Soviet Asia.

Chevenement portrayed Japan as surrounded by instability, saying tensions in North Korea, China, Cambodia and Vietnam remained unresolved. French diplomacy to pursue solutions, especially in the Cambodian conflict, would benefit from Japanese cooperation, contributing to security and stability, he said.

Chevenement, who has visited Japan twice before as the head of France's Research and Technology, and Industry Ministries, suggested greater exchanges of technology in a meeting Wednesday with Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa. Long-standing Japanese policy bans the export of military technology.

Chevenement said that while he was aware of restrictions, the distinction between civilian and military use technologies was blurred, especially in new fields like composite materials and advanced electronics, where Japan is especially strong. The French firm Aerospatiale, one of the world's largest producers of helicopters, made commercial aircraft in addition to jet fighters, Chevenement noted. Radar and ultraviolet detection technology could also benefit from exchanges, he said.

France "has much to learn" from Japan's "admirable technology." Japan and the U.S. agreed to increase joint research and development of similar technologies after a visit by the U.S. secretary of defense in February.

Chevenement toured a Mitsubishi electric facility earlier the same day, before meeting with several leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He will meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday before his departure Saturday evening.

The four-day visit is the first ever by a French defense minister to Japan, though Japanese defense chiefs have made the trip to Paris several times.

Meets With Kaifu 20 Apr

OW2004142690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—France's Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu agreed Friday to promote Franco-Japanese cooperation in the defense and national security fields, Japanese officials said. Chevenement told Kaifu that Japan and France should expand exchanges between their foreign and defense ministers and military officers to deepen the dialogue on security.

Kaifu agreed, saying the matter was "very important." The prime minister also pointed to the need to strengthen ties not only with France but also with other members of the European Community.

Chevenement, currently on a four-day visit through Saturday, conveyed French Prime Minister Michel Rocard's hope to visit Japan and Kaifu welcomed the idea, officials said. Kaifu and Chevenement agreed to arrange a schedule for such a trip through diplomatic channnels, the officials said.

The French defense minister also called for an increase in Japanese investment in France to help reduce France's trade deficit with this country. Kaifu said he would convey Chevenement's request to business leaders.

Chevenement is the first French defense minister to visit Japan since World War II.

Sihanouk-Hun Sen Tokyo Talks Said Possible

OW1904124690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Foreign Ministry officials on Thursday described as "misleading" reports that Cambodian resistence leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has declined Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's recent invitation to meet with Phnom Penh leader Hun Sen in Tokyo.

"We are a bit perplexed at news reports that Prince Sihanouk refused the meeting," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I would say they are misleading," he added. Rather, the official said, Sihanouk "seems to be cautious on the timing of the possible meeting between (himself) and Hun Sen." But officials would not elaborate on Sihanouk's reaction to Tokyo as the venue for a future meeting with Hun Sen, a proposal made earlier in the month by visiting Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Kaifu's subsequent invitation was conveyed to Sihanouk last Tuesday by a Bangkok-based senior diplomat, who visited him at his jungle residence in a rebel-controlled area of Cambodia across the border from Thailand.

An aide to Sihanouk said in Bangkok earlier Thursday the prince rejected the two-way meeting with Hun Sen by saying it would not be fruitful without the participation of his allies in the tripartite resistence coalition, particularly the Khmer Rouge. Another source close to Sihanouk said he refused to meet with Hun Sen because he was angered by recent criticism leveled at him by the Phnom Penh government leader over his collaboration with the Khmer Rouge and over his former conduct as ruler of Cambodia.

Aides said the prince sent a letter back to Kaifu saying he is nevertheless prepared to attend a meeting among the four warring Cambodian factions at any time.

Government Reconfirms Ban on Aid to SRV

OW2004114290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan informed Vietnam on Friday that it is still not in a position to extend economic cooperation to Hanoi as long as the Cambodian conflict remains unsettled, Foreign Ministry officials said. Japan's reaffirmation of the policy adopted since Vietnam's intervention in Cambodia in 1978 was conveyed to visiting Vietnamese First Vice Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem in a three-hour meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada.

The officials denied that Liem made any "concrete request" for a resumption of economic assistance, but quoted him as saying his country wants to increase "economic cooperation" with Japan.

Owada said a settlement to the Cambodian conflict [has] to be achieved before "further progress" in overall bilateral relations can be charted. But while full-fledged cooperation with Vietnam remains "restricted" by the Cambodia problems, Japan will continue to extend aid for humanitarian needs and for cultural exchanges, he added.

Owada said Japan-Vietnam ties are "essentially important" and even in the absence of a settlement the two countries should continue to discuss policy matters and promote cultural exchanges. He said in line with the so-called Fukuda Doctrine of 1978, Japan wants to deepen mutual understanding with the three countries in Indochina, while cooperating with the six countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Liem welcomed Japan's role in the Asia-Pacific region, which he noted is growing in importance, and said bilateral relations should be deepened with the future in mind. He said Foreign Minister Nyugen Co Thach instructed him before his departure to help lay the groundwork for long-term bilateral relations in order to prepare for his visit.

Owada said Japan hopes to see Thach's long-anticipated visit realized in the near future and added that such dialogue at the ministerial level should have a "constructive significance."

Talks With ROK on Residents Issue Postponed

OW1804202090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 18 (KYODO)—Japan has postponed a session of informal talks with South Korea about the legal status and treatment of Korean residents in Japan, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. Officials said Japan is not sufficiently prepared to ensure a successful outcome for the meeting, which was to be held in Seoul on April 20-21.

The meeting is to pave the way for a visit to Seoul later this month by Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and a subsequent visit to Japan by South Korean President No Tae-u. At that time, South Korean leaders hope to wrap up the controversial bilateral issue and move relations onto new footing. But Foreign Ministry sources said a postponement of the talks would likely not adversely affect Nakayama's plans to visit Seoul in late April.

The focus of the talks is on the as-yet-undetermined legal status of third-generation Koreans, but Seoul is also concerned about the treatment of first- and second-generation Koreans, including requirements that they be fingerprinted and carry alien registration cards at all times.

Officials said Japan decided to ask South Korea to postpone the talks after the concerned ministries said they still need time to arrive at a "clear picture" of Japan's future course of action regarding South Korean demands.

Officials of the foreign and justice ministries, as well as the National Police Agency (NPA), have until now been tackling the issue on a working level. But sources said the talks are to be upgraded to the vice ministerial level, while Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is likely to exercise a "political decision" in order to break the bureacratic deadlock.

Nakayama, who met separately with Kaifu and Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, told a Diet foreign affairs committee Wednesday morning it is necessary for the government to make a "political decision" before he goes to Seoul.

Nakayama's remarks followed those made last Monday by President No, who told visiting former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita that a "political decision" by Kaifu is needed to break the current deadlock and open a new chapter in bilateral relations. But a top Foreign Ministry official said the discussions among the concerned ministries have yet to reach a point where they need to be upgraded in order to overcome bureaucratic limitations.

The official said it is not a foregone conclusion that matters will be finalized for No and Kaifu to sign an agreement when they meet in Tokyo. But he said Japan wants to have a blueprint ready by that time.

Sources said Seoul's ambassador to Japan, Yi Wonkyong, called on Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama on Tuesday and stressed the need for Japan to arrive at a decision so that No's visit could be facilitated. Kuriyama said that while Japan understands Seoul's sense of frustration, it should know that Japan places a very high priority on the issue and is exerting efforts to arrive at a solution.

Official Apologizes to ROK A-Bomb Victims

OW2004035590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official on Thursday apologized to a delegation of South Korean survivors of the atomic bombings in Japan during World War II. In a meeting with Yutaka Kawashima, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, Sin Yong-mal, president of South Korean A-Bomb Victims Association, who leads the 14-member delegation, urged the government to apologize to Korean A-bomb survivors and take steps to help them.

Kawashima said Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's apology over Japan's abandonment of Koreans on the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin at the end of World War II would be extended to Korean A-bomb survivors. Nakayama made the apology at a Diet meeting Wednesday. Kawashima also said the government is doing its utmost to establish a fund for Korean A-bomb survivors before South Korean President No Tae-u visits Japan. During Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula between 1910 and 1945, tens of thousands of Korean workers were forcibly brought to Japan, including the then Japanese territory of Sakhalin. The delegation arrived in Nagasaki on April 13 and has visited Hiroshima and Osaka.

Government To Continue Fingerprinting Foreigners

OW2004063490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa indicated Friday that the government is not considering abolition of the fingerprinting system required of foreign residents by immigration authorities, saying it is difficult to find a new measure to replace it. Hasegawa, however, added that his ministry—which is in charge of immigration affairs—has been reviewing the fingerprinting system but not yet come up with a decision.

The justice minister made the remarks at a news conference in response to press reports that some members of the Japanese Parliamentary Association of Japan-South Korea Friendship are calling for abolition of the fingerprinting system for the third-generation Korean residents in Japan. Third-generation Koreans are descendants of Koreans brought to Japan for forced labor during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula between 1910 and 1945. The legal status of third-generation Korean residents in Japan and the fingerprinting system are expected to be major issues during South Korean President No Tae-u's scheduled visit to Japan in May. Under the Alien Registration Law, foreign residents aged 16 or over are required to register their fingerprints and carry their identity registration card.

Court Approves Extradition of PRC Hijacker

OW2004093190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—The Tokyo High Court on Friday turned down a plea for political asylum by a Chinese man accused of hijacking a passenger plane to Japan last year and ordered his extradition to China. The decision, from which there is no appeal, empowers the justice minister to deport Zhang Zhenhai, 36, who has been detained in Japan since December 16, when a New York-bound Air China flight landed in Fukuoka after he had taken it over. He was reportedly demanding to be flown to South Korea.

Zhang allegedly commandeered the aircraft, which had 233 people on board, by threatening to blow it up. He was arrested after being pushed out through an open door by a flight attendant after it landed at Fukuoka Airport. The plane was flying from Beijing for a stop in Shanghai when it was commandeered, and landed in Fukuoka after being turned away by Seoul.

The Chinese Government has demanded that Zhang be extradited to China to stand trial. Zhang, who boarded the plane together with his wife and their 13-year-old son, has pleaded for political asylum, saying he fled because he was involved in the prodemocracy movement in China which was crushed by the military last June. Zhang's wife and son were flown back to China along with other passengers of the plane after the hijacking.

In a series of extradition hearings which the High Court has held since March, prosecutors have argued that Zhang never took part in political activities and hijacked the plane only to flee the country. Zhang's defense lawyers said he will be persecuted and could face execution if returned to China, where hijacking carries the death penalty.

China has charged that Zhang, who was the manager of a textile machinery factory in Hubei Province, is a common criminal who embezzled official funds.

Japanese and foreign human rights groups and Chinese who sympathize with the prodemocracy movement have also urged the Japanese Government not to extradite Zhang.

One exiled Chinese dissident from France came to Japan to testify in the hearings, saying he personally remembers Zhang taking part in antigovernment demonstrations in Beijing prior to the crackdown in Tiananmen Square last June 4.

Indian Activists Urge End to Aid for Dam

OW2004121090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1118 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Three Indian environmentalists urged the Japanese Government Friday not to extend economic assistance to the Third World that would destroy the environment. The Indian activists, who are opposed to a dam project in India cofinanced by Japan, visited the Foreign Ministry and the governmental Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and urged them to halt aid to the project.

Kisan Metha, Vijaya Venkat, and Ramesh Billory met Azusa Hayashi, director of the Foreign Ministry's Loan Aid Division and Tsuneo Oyake, vice president of the OECF. In a news conference after the meetings, Metha said they requested that Japanese taxpayers' money should not be used to help further damage the environment and displace people from their traditional homes.

The Japanese officials told the Indian activists that Japan will consider their request, Metha said, adding that most of the people who are going to be affected by the dam are tribal people, who depend on forests for their livelihood.

At issue is the Sardar Sarovar Dam, being built across the Narmada River in Gujarat State, western India. The dam is expected to displace 100,000 people.

The World Bank approved a 450 million dollar loan for the project in 1985 before environment assessment and resettlement programs by the Indian Government were completed. In the same year, Japan also agreed to extend a 2.85 billion yen loan for hydroelectric generating equipment.

Metha, a former official of the Maharashtra State Government, said they suggested the Japanese Government should have its own appraisal on projects before it provides aid and should not depend on the World Bank and the recipient countries.

Rules Against Money-Laundering Advocated

OW2004035790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—International rules should be created to counter money laundering by enacting legislation to make it a criminal offense to launder illegal drug profits, according to a report prepared by an international task force. Money laundering is a practice in which funds obtained illegally, in many cases by deals in drugs, are converted into financial assets that appear legitimate.

The report, released Thursday by the Finance Ministry, also urged finance regulators to take measures to oblige financial institutions to report transactions suspected of being linked to drug money.

Under the 40-point proposals, banks and other financial institutions would be required to indentify their customers in such cases and would be free of any obligations of secrecy regarding their customers' accounts. Among other recommendations are that the institutions preserve records of all the transactions at least for a five-year period and that they try to find out on whose behalf an account was opened to prevent false-name accounts which might be used by drug traffickers.

The 16-member task force, commissioned by the Group of Seven (G- 7) industrial nations and chaired by France, also proposed that guidelines be worked out to enable drug-related assets to be seized. The group was created at the Paris summit of the G-7—the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada—in July 1989 to study the process of money laundering.

The seven nations were joined by eight other nations—Australia, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland—and the European Commission.

The new rules would be applied to not only banks but also other types of financial institutions, including, for example, post offices in Japan and leasing and credit companies.

Finance ministry officials, in announcing the report, said the recommendations are not binding, but Japan will follow them by taking legal measures and exercising administrative guidelines. Japan is among the four countries taking part in the task force which do not have legislation that stipulates money laundering as a crime.

The officials said the G-7 will report progress in implementing these proposals at its next meeting in Houston, Texas, in July. Though drugs are not a serious problem in Japan, the number of drugs seized in Japan is on the rise. Last year, Japanese police and customs officials seized a total of 13.7 kilograms of cocaine, up sharply from 168 grams in 1988, according to government figures.

Ozawa Urges Kaifu To 'Stand Firm' on Reform

OW1904151690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa on Thursday urged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to stand firm in revamping the electoral system. Ozawa told a meeting in Tokyo that judging from present political circumstances, Kaifu has no chance but to carry out the reform of the electoral system. He also said the LDP should close ranks in implementing political reforms, adding that both the Kaifu cabinet and the LDP's executives would have to take political responsibility if they fail to carry out such reforms.

The Election System Council, an advisory panel to the prime minister, will submit a recommendation on revison of the election system for the House of Representatives to Kaifu next Thursday. The council earlier approved reports of its two subcommittees, recommending introduction of a new election system for the lower house, combining single-seat constituencies with a proportional representation system. The recommendation is expected to propose that the number of seats in the powerful lower chamber be reduced to some 500 from the current 512. In addition, it will recommend that 60 percent of lower house members be elected from single-seat constituencies while the remainder are selected from lists provided by political parties in proportion to the number of votes won by each party.

Shin Kanemaru Interviewed on Electoral Reform

OW2004143390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1349 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Veteran conservative Diet member Shin Kanemaru called on Friday for national consensus over the reform of Japan's election system. Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister and head of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] largest faction, said it would take at least two or three years to revise the nation's election system.

The LDP blames Japan's money-guzzling politics on the election system, particularly with the House of Representatives, which allocates three to four seats to a single constituency.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Kanemaru said he favors introducing single-seat constituencies. He also said that electoral reforms cannot be completed by the 100th anniversary of the nation's Diet this fall as proposed by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and top LDP officers.

The Election System Council, an advisory panel to the prime minister, will submit a recommendation on revision of the election system for the lower house to Kaifu next Thursday.

The advisory council earlier approved reports for its two subcommittees, recommending introduction of a new election system for the lower chamber, combining single-seat constituencies with a proportional representation system. But even some LDP Diet members criticized the electoral reform proposal as the work of "amateurs," while opposition parties said the new system would ensure the LDP stays in power permanently.

When asked about a successor to Kaifu, Kanemaru said former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, a senior LDP member, is regarded as the most probable person. Kanemaru, however, said he will continue to support Kaifu. He said the Kaifu Cabinet has won the high public support rate in recent opinion polls released by the Japanese media, including KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Opposition Parties Submit Bills To Scrap Tax

OW1904145390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Four opposition parties submitted a package of four related bills in the House of Representatives of the Diet on Thursday to scrap the 3 percent consumption tax. The package of bills submitted to lower house Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi by the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP), contains the same provisions as bills passed by the opposition-controlled House of Councillors last December.

The upper house package was killed by the more powerful lower house dominated by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) without deliberation.

In presenting the package Thursday, the opposition said a draft to reform the tax system should be submitted to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and the Diet within a year following the scrapping of the consumption tax. The four opposition parties hope to implement the package of bills to abolish the tax from October 1, party officials said.

Scrapping of the consumption tax would mean an estimated cut of about 2.52 trillion yen in revenues in the fiscal 1990 budget and an estimated 6.39 trillion yen cut in revenues in the fiscal 1991 budget, the opposition officials said. They said the four opposition parties are planning to increase capital gains taxes and restore commodity and other abolished taxes to make up the shortfall arising from the scrapping of the consumption tax.

Touching on the fiscal 1990 budget, the four parties have demanded that revenues from the consumption tax be cut from the budget.

The parties have asked the LDP to reply to them by April 25 but LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa flatly rejected the demand of the opposition parties.

The government March 6 submitted a package of bills to the Diet to modify the consumption tax introduced last April.

Keigo Ouchi Chosen New DSP Chairman 19 Apr

OW2004003190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Former Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Secretary General Keigo Ouchi was chosen on Thursday as new chairman of the centrist opposition party following a series of meetings among top party leaders since last week. The agreement to choose the 60-year-old Ouchi was finalized at the fifth round of talks held on Thursday among Chairman Eiichi Nagasue and former Chairmen Ryosaku Sasaki and Saburo Sasaki.

Ouchi's rival Takashi Yonezawa, 50, will remain as secretary general of the fourth largest opposition party, the top leaders agreed. The agreement was reported at the party's central executive committee meeting held on the same day. The committee gave its approval to the decision.

Ouchi will be officially elected as new DSP leader at a three-day party convention opening here next Tuesday.

The three party leaders began their round of meetings last Friday but could not agree as Nagasue backed Yomezawa, while Tsukamoto supported Ouchi as new party leader. But when Yonezawa joined Thursday's meeting of the three leaders, he declined the nomination for party chairman.

Sasaki proposed appointing Ouchi as chairman with Yonezawa as secretary general. Nagasue and Tsukamoto then agreed to the proposal. Nagasue is resigning as DSP leader since the party failed to improve its vote in last summer's House of Councillors election and last February's House of Representatives election.

The DSP's action plans for this year include the virtual discontinuation of talks aimed at achieving a noncommunist opposition coalition government and switch from its policy of siding with the top opposition Japan Socialist Party and the centirst Komeito.

The appointment of Ouchi, seen as favoring a policy of joining hands with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, as DSP leader is expected to affect future political situations and reorganization of political parties.

House of Councillors Vice President Ono Dies

OW1904050390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0131 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 19 KYODO—Akira Ono, vice president of the house of Councillors, died of pneumonia on Thursday at a hospital in Tokyo, his family said. He was 70 years old. Former vice chairman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Ono assumed the upper house vice presidency last August following his election to the Diet for a fifth term from the Fukuoka electoral district in the July election for the House of Councillors.

In accordance with Diet custom, he left the party following his installation as vice president of the house.

Following his death, a by-election in the Fukuoka electoral district is expected to be held in late May, government officials said.

Ono was born in Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture. He was elected to the upper house in 1969 from the Fukuoka district for the first time after serving as president of the Fukuoka Prefecture Teachers' Union and president of the Fukuoka Prefecture General Council of Trade unions.

Small Firms Thrive, Labor Shortage Threatens

OW2004042790 Tokyo KYODO in English 2359 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan's small companies are thriving in the robust domestic demand-led economy, but a severe labor shortage and swelling debt burdens pose ominous threats to their prosperity, a government white paper said Friday. The annual white paper on small and medium enterprises compiled by the small and medium enterprise agency said the economic expansion driven by brisk internal demand has benefitted a wide array of small-sized companies because their business depends more on the home market than on exports.

The country's small- and medium-sized firms, classified as those capitalized at less than 100 million yen and with a work force of less than 300 employees, produce about 30 percent of the gross national product (GNP) and employ about half of the total workers.

But on the other hand, sharp demands for funds to invest in plants and facilities have made small firms more deeply leveraged, while such investment needs have pushed larger companies into active fund-raising in the increasingly liberalized capital market.

Total outstanding loans by private and government financial institutions to small and medium enterprises at the end of 1989 stood at 280.2 trillion yen, up 12.2 percent from a year before, the report said. Such a growing dependency on loaned capital is beginning to place a heavy burden on the management of small companies as interest rates have made a sharp upturn recently after a long period of decline, the report said.

The tightening labor market is also threatening to force small firms to put the brakes on their growth.

The unemployment rate declined to 2.1 percent in 1989 from 3.1 percent two years before, and more than 40 percent of small companies cite the difficulty of hiring as the largest management headache.

Besides the brisk economic expansion, the report pointed to the recent trend among young workers toward changing companies less hesitantly and shunning small ones as a major cause for the labor crunch. The number of people who quit small companies and landed a job with large firms reached 350,000 in 1987, the highest level since 1973, according to the report.

The report urged small companies to shorten labor hours and to streamline operations to survive amid the harsh labor shortage.

The report, however, pointed out that the trend toward more diversity and higher quality in consumers' demands for products is providing a good opportunity for small companies to parlay their larger management flexibility into a bigger profit. But in order for them to grab such business chances, it contended, they should augment their ability in information gathering, technology development, and marketing.

The relative weakness of small business in these fields compared with large enterprises is clearly demonstrated by the fact that productivity in creating added value, which is considered to be an indicator for the overall management strength of a company, is showing a widening gap between large and small firms.

The productivity of small companies slid to 55 in 1988 from 66 in 1975, with that for large companies being 100.

The principal management hurdle for small enterprises at this moment is to narrow the gap with their larger rivals in these nonhardware management resources, the report said. For that purpose, small companies should establish powerful information networks to collect market information, and develop high value-added technology to secure a business niche for themselves, it said.

The report also emphasized the importance of nurturing a high-quality work force with useful expertise, and building up an information network among small enterprises to supplement each other's resources.

Trade Deficit Posted in First Part of April

OW2004092990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Tokyo, April 20 KYODO—Japan had a 182.81 million dollar trade deficit on a customs clearance basis in the first 10 days of April compared with a 2,523.54 million dollar surplus a year before, the Finance Ministry announced Friday.

Exports totaled 6,858.77 million dollars on an FOB [free on board] basis, down 7.8 percent from a year earlier, and imports 7,041.58 million dollars on a CIF [cash in fist] basis, up 43.3 percent.

Reportage on Nakayama at Global Trade Talks

WA2004124390

For Mexican reportage on the visit to Mexico by Foreign Minister Nakayama to attend global trade talks; and on his meetings with President Salinas de Gortari, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, and other officials; please see the Mexico section of the 19 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, the International Affairs Section of the 20 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

Mongolia

Spokesman Supports Cuba on TV-Marti Issue

OW1904114790 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Mongolian public consistently supports the just demand and position of the Government of the Republic of Cuba and its people concerning the U.S. TV-Marti transmissions beamed to Cuba. This experimental TV transmission is of aggressive nature and contradicts the international law on norms and threatens the ideas of peace, security, and cooperation in the region, stated Foreign Ministry spokesman at a press conference in Ulaanbaatar.

Presidium Abolishes Public Security Ministry

OW2004114590 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0810 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] The Mongolian Ministry of Public Security has been displaced by a decree of the Presidium of the Mongolian People's Great Hural. It is published in the daily UNEN. The paper also carries another decree on releasing Lieutenant General Jamsranjab from the post of minister of public security.

UNEN Editorial on Party Extraordinary Congress

OW1904115190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Commenting on the recent Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party extraordinary congress, the daily UNEN writes editorially that exclusive, businesslike, and democratic atmosphere was characteristic of the congress, and it passed historic decisions on the party renewal and intensification of the reconstruction process of the country.

The editorial underlines that the extraordinary congress has stressed the priority significance of social orientation of the party's economic policy, the development of democracy, openness, and pluralism of views in the society.

Determining the party's foreign policy course, the congress noted the party's adherence to the development of international unity and cooperation in building humane and democratic socialism, notes the editorial.

Ulaanbaatar Decision on House Sale Protested

OW1904115290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Mongolian Trade Union Central Council sent a petition to the Ulaanbaatar Municipality protesting against its decision on house sale to establishments and organizations, starting from 1990. It criticizes the city authorities for an obvious discrimination of those engaged in nonmaterial production sphere, such as culture, science, education, and public health.

The Trade Union Central Council will have to call upon the working people to join meetings in the interests of defending the rights provided the city authorities do not change their illegal decision, notes the petition.

Journalists' Union To Hold Congress 26 Apr

OW1904115390 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The sixth congress of the Mongolian Journalists' Union is planned to be held on April 26th, 27th this year. It is going to be attended by about 200 journalists and discuss issues related to the role and status of journalists in the Mongolian society, renewal of the Mongolian Journalists' Union, as well as some organizational matters.

It has been told at a press conference devoted to the forthcoming event that the renewed Mongolian Journalists' Union will make every effort to have the Law on Press been passed not later than by the end of 1990.

North Korea

Permission Requested for Family To Cross DMZ

SK2004052690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Telephone message sent by the senior member of the north side to the Military Armistice Commission, MAC, to the senior member of the UN Forces side (yonhapkukkunchuk) to the MAC 20 April]

[Text] To the senior member of the UN Forces side [yonhapkukkunchuk] to the MAC:

In connection with the proposal of the mother of Han Pil-hwa, people's athlete of the DPRK, to meet her son Han Pil-song and his family living in South Korea in Pyongyang, we have received a request that the MAC take appropriate steps. According to the Military Armistice Agreement, a civilian must get the approval of the MAC to pass through the Military Demarcation Line and the DMZ. As required by the Military Armistice Agreement and from the standpoint of humanitarianism, our side will allow Mr. Han Pil-song and his family to enter the area of our side passing through the headquarters area and the Joint Security Area of the MAC, and fully guarantee their personal safety.

We hope that your side will take corresponding positive steps.

[Signed] Senior member of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers side to the MAC
[Dated] 20 April 1990

'People's Sportswoman' Han Pil-hwa Interviewed

SK1904123690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—People's sportswoman Han Pil-hwa was interviewed by home and foreign reporters here this afternoon.

This interview was arranged at her request.

"Kim Il-song Prize" laureate, she is now deputy director of a department of the State Sports Commission and concurrently vice-chairwoman of the Korean Ice Skating Association. She is also vice-chairwoman of the Asian Ice Skating Union.

At the interview Han Pil-hwa said that her elder brother Han Pil-song whom she had met in Japan sent a letter to her a few days ago through the good offices of the South Korean Red Cross and she sent a reply to him today through the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK.

According to Han Pil-hwa, in the letter to her, Han Pil-song invited his mother to South Korea where he is now living and said that if it was inconvenient, he would come to her.

She said:

Mother felt deeply hurt at the letter, saying: How can my Pil-song, instead of coming home to his mother, ask mother in her advanced age of nineties to come to him. It is undutifulness of a son to invite mother to South Korea far from coming to mother and discharging his filial duty.

Han Pil-hwa wrote all this in her reply letter.

In the letter, she also wrote that mother wanted him to come to Pyongyang at once, bringing with him his wife and children to be embraced in her bosom and hoped that if they come to Pyongyang, they would live in Pyongyang with her, giving up the idea of returning to South Korea.

Han Pil-hwa said:

At the news conference held in Hokkaido, my brother said home-visiting would be realized soon and then he would be the first to apply for a visit to the North and call on mother. I can hardly understand why my brother went back on his words in a month.

I wrote in the letter I believe it is not his own intention to invite mother to South Korea and that here lies a dishonest scheme to use our family problem for a political purpose.

Answering questions put by reporters, Han Pil-hwa said:

That my brother was not urged by his real intention when he invited mother to his home in South Korea is clear when we recall his words to mother through the international telephone that he would come to Pyongyang and he wished her good health till that time.

My brother was obviously subjected to pressure and manipulation of insidious forces when he suddenly invited mother to South Korea.

Turning to her meeting with her brother in Japan, she exposed the fact that the South Korean puppets forced him to carry in his waist four midget tape recorders with bugging mikes and five or six gangsters of the "Security Planning Board" shadowed him to watch the meeting between brother and sister 40 years after separation. She condemned the South Korean puppets who are trying to abuse the meeting between brother and sister for a sinister political purpose as mean and despicable fellows without a shred of human conscience.

"I bitterly denounce the inhumane act of the South Korean puppets against my brother and complain against it before the international human rights organization and the International Red Cross body," declared Han Pil-hwa.

Expressing the belief that her brother would surely come with his family to the bosom of mother where happiness awaits them, Han Pil-hwa stressed:

When my brother and his family come to Pyongyang, I believe, the competent organ of our Republic will provide them all conveniences including their safety.

The matter depends on the stand and attitude of the South Korean authorities.

If the South Korean authorities really mean what they talk about "travel", "opening" and "reunion" of separated families, they must not block the way of my brother coming to the embrace of mother.

Red Cross Guarantees Safety for Proposed Reunion

SK2004061490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0455 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, today sent a telephone message to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross.

The message informed Kim Sang-hyop that if Mr. Han Pil-song and his family in South Korea visit Pyongyang to meet his mother and relatives 40 years after separation, the competent organ of the DPRK will welcome him and guarantee their safety and provide them with all conveniences.

Han Pil-song is the eldest brother of Han Pil-hwa, vice-director of a department of the state sports commission of the DPRK, vice-chairwoman of the Korean Ice Skating association and vice-chairwoman of the Asian Ice Skating Union.

Han Pil-song went to South Korea at the age of 16 against his will due to the A-bomb threat of the U.S. imperialist aggressors during the Korean War. His mother near 90 and relatives live in the Northern half of the country. Han Pil- hwa had a dramatic meeting with her brother in Japan some time ago 40 years after separation.

Radio Reports Telephone Message

SK2004044490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0400 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Telephone message sent by Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society, to Kim Sang-hyop, president of the South Korean Red Cross Society, on 20 April 1990]

[Text] To Kim Sang-hyop, president of the ROK [taehan] Red Cross Society:

This is to inform you that if Mr. Han Pil-song and his family in South Korea visit Pyongyang to see his mother and relatives from whom they have been separated for 40 years, the relevant organizations of our Republic will welcome them, guarantee their personal safety, and provide them with all necessary expediency.

[Signed] Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society
[Dated] 20 April 1990

SKNDF-Japan Mission Issues Statement

SK2004102590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1014 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Han Su-mi, spokesman for the Japan mission of the "South Korean National Democratic Front" [SKNDF] (Hanminjon), issued a statement on April 18 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the opening of the mission, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

He noted that the mission has given broad information of and propagandized the chuche idea, the guiding idea of Hanminjon, and the policies of Hanminjon for carrying out its programme embodying the chuche idea, notably it has given sincere information abroad on the policy of Hanminjon in each stage of the development of the movement for a change in South Korea and on the actual situation of the mass movements, and correctly conveyed the desires and demands of the South Korean people, thus contributing to gaining a broad understanding, warm sympathy and support from the international community.

Our mission is creditably playing an important part in the external propaganda of Hanminjon by issuing the paper KUGUK CHONSON (NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT) in Korean, Japanese and English and regularly distributing it not only inside Japan but also to parties, governments, organizations of movements, news agencies, newspaper offices and prominent figures of many countries on the six continents of the world, he said, adding:

Today Hanminjon and the South Korean people are waging a fierce struggle to achieve a broad unity of all the democratic, patriotic forces, expand and increase the power of their movement and thus realize independence and democracy in society and national reunification at an early date under the banner of the chuche idea.

Our mission will unremittingly expose and condemn the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u military dictators in South Korea against the nation, democracy and reunification and thus further isolate them internationally and work hard so that louder voices demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist occupation forces and nuclear weapons from there and opposing and denouncing the moves to create "two Koreas" may ring out from all parts of the world, he stressed.

U.S., South Continue 'Frenzied' War Exercise

SK1904152590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1509 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—The Pacific Airforce command of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces on April 18 let scores of "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. 7th Airforce stationed in South Korea stage a frantic forestalling strike game against the North in coordination with the formations of "F-15" figther-bombers which had been transferred from the Kadena Base in Okinawa to the Kunsan Airforce Base, according to military sources.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists frenziedly staged an exercise of surprise strikes at targets on the ground by letting formations of overseas-based "A-4" and "A-6" assault planes make shuttle flights over the areas near the Military Demarcation Line in South Korea.

On April 17 and 18, they staged a round-the-clock exercise to strike at targets on the ground under the watch of military brasshats with the mobilisation of formations of "F-16" fighter-bombers belonging to the 7th Airforce. On the 19th, they got overheated with firing and bomb-dropping exercise by setting in motion formations of helicopters of the U.S. 2nd Infantry Division present in South Korea and "F-16" fighter-bombers of the 7th Airforce.

They hurled in succession overseas-based "F-15" fighter-bombers, assault planes and pursuit-assault planes into South Korea and let them stage a hysterical aerial war game simulating surprise strikes at targets in the central and inland areas of the Northern half of Korea in coordination with fighter-bombers of the 7th Airforce over one week from April 11.

In April, synchronising with the "Team Spirit 90" war game against the North, the South Korean puppets feverishly staged a large-scale field mobile exercise of army corps, division and brigade scale and an attack exercise combined with firing from artillery pieces and tanks under the cover of formations of warplanes.

All these frenzied war rackets prove how zealously the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are preparing themselves to gratify their desire for Northward invasion.

'Fierce' Anti-U.S. Student Protests in South

SK190412[illegible]890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1107 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Tens of thousands of students staged fierce anti-U.S., anti-"government" protests in Seoul, Kwangju, Taegu, and other areas Wednesday following Tuesday, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the April 19 popular uprising which toppled the Syngman Rhee dictatorial "regime," according to reports.

They strongly demanded the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces from South Korea and called for massive protests against the Noh Tae-u "regime".

More than 15,000 students of 19 universities in Seoul held different functions including a marathon race and eve memorial services Wednesday to demonstrate their will to carry forward the spirit of the April 19 uprising.

Over 7,000 students of Korea University held the marathon and a demonstration in a 16-kilometre route from the campus gate to the Suyuri cemetery and back, chanting "Dissolve the Democratic Liberal Party!"

At Suyuri they joined more than 3,000 students of Songgyungwan, Toksong Women's and Kwangun Universities in a ceremony commemorating the April 19 and renewed their determination to realize the democratization of the South Korean society at any cost.

That day some 2,000 students of Seoul University took to the street and held a marathon race to commemorate the April 19 resistance, and over 500 students of Yonsei University held an eve memorial service, singing in chorus the song "Chindallae" (Azalea) as one of functions scheduled on the eve of April 19 in the open-air campus theatre before going over to a torchlight procession.

More than 500 students of Konguk University in Seoul held a campus rally to mark the April 19 resistance and took to streets, fiercely clashing with riot police in a three-hour stubborn anti-U.S., anti-"government" demonstration.

On the same day upwards of 4,000 students of Chonnam, Choson and other universities in Kwangju held a running race for inheriting the April 19 spirit, shouting "Opposition to the Democratic Liberal Party","“opposition to the United States" and "Punish No Tae-u and Gregg (American ambassador in Seoul)." In Taegu students of Kyongbuk, Kyemyong and other universities had a fierce clash with the riot police while demonstrating.

Equipment Replacement by U.S. Forces Noted

SK2004043690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0430 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists replaced four relief helicopters "HH-3E" in the Osan Airforce Base of South Korea with special operational helicopters "MH-60" early this year, according to a foreign press report.

Earlier, they made training flights of the "MH-60" helicopters for nearly two months to test its performance.

This reveals that the U.S. imperialists systematically replace the equipment of their aggressor forces present in South Korea for various special operational missions by helicopters in "case of emergency".

Soviet Embassy Celebrates Lenin's Birthday

SK1904152090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—A film show and a cocktail party were given at the Soviet Embassy here on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of birth of the Great V.I. Lenin.

Invited there were Kang Sok-song, director of the Party History Institute of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Yi Chong-yul, minister of Public Health and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, Yi Mong-ho, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a Department of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Chae-suk, vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, and other officials concerned.

Present there were Charge D' Affaires Ad Interim Boris Morozov and officials of the Soviet Embassy.

The participants saw a Soviet film on the life and activities of V.I. Lenin.

Then followed a cocktail party.

Speeches were made at the cocktail party which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Papers Commemorate Anniversary of Cuban Victory

SK1904130290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry articles on the 29th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron battle.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed article the Playa Giron battle clearly showed that no force could subjugate a people who turned out for the cause of justice, risking their lives, and only defeat and death were in store for those who recklessly fell upon such people.

Noting that the Cuban people have vigorously promoted the revolution and construction in the Playa Giron spirit, smashing the continued acts of aggression, interference and blockade of the U.S. Imperialists at every step, the article says:

The world's attention is drawn to the Cuban people who are victoriously advancing the revolution and construction under the very nose of the U.S. Imperialists, upholding the revolutionary red flag, the banner of socialism.

Virtually, socialist Cuba greatly inspires the fighting peoples with its existence alone.

Far from drawing a proper lesson from their shameful defeat in the Playa Giron battle, the U.S. imperialists are still viciously manoevering to stifle the Republic of Cuba.

This is, however, an anachronistic dream.

The Cuban people are a heroic people who have the tradition of fighting against the enemy with arms in their hands in the spirit of Moncada and Sierra Maestra, a revolutionary people who have defended the revolutionary banner for over 30 years, going through the trying ordeals and difficulties of Playa Giron and the "Caribbean Crisis" and a faithful militant people who have performed creditably o their lofty internationalist duties. This people are closely united around the Communist Party of Cuba with Comrade Fidel Castro at its head.

The Cuban people are advancing under the militant slogan "Socialism or death".

No manoeuvres can check the advance of the Cuban revolution. They will let the banner of revolution, the banner of socialism fly for ever above the land of Cuba.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says that the revolutionary cause of the heroic Cuban people who live in the spirit of Playa Giron is invincible.

Cuban Embassy Reception Marks Playa Giron Battle

SK2004006190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to Korea, gave a reception at his embassy Thursday [19 Apr] evening on the occasion of the 29th anniversary o the victory of the Cuban people in the Playa Giron Battle.

Present on invitation were Chief of General Staff Choe Kwang, Lt. General O Kyong-hun and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army.

Speeches were exchanged there.

Castro Attends Friendship Meeting at Embassy

SK2004103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Havana April 18 (KCNA)—A friendship meeting celebrating April 15 was held at the Korean Embassy in Cuba on April 16.

Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, was present on invitation.

Also present there were Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC; Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the CPC, vice-president of the councillof ministers and minister of education; and other party and government senior officials.

Comrade Fidel Castro extended warm congratulations to Comrade Kim Il-song on his birthday.

Leaders Send Greetings to GDR Counterparts

SK1904114090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1114 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Lothar de Maiziere upon his election as premier of the German Democratic Republic.

The message expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples will develop on the principles of equality, mutual respect and non-interference in other's internal affairs.

And Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Markus Meckel upon his election as foreign minister of the GDR.

Trade Protocol Signed With Vietnam 16 Apr

SK2004050690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0429 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—A 1990 protocol on the delivery of commodities and payments between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was signed in Hanoi on April 16.

It was signed by Kang Chong-mo, vice-minister of foreign trade of the DPRK, and Le Kim Lang, vice-minister of home trade of Vietnam.

Palestinian Ambassador Hosts Birthday Reception

SK2004061390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0448 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Mustafa Safarini, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Korea, hosted a reception at his embassy Thursday [19 Apr] on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

In his speech the ambassador said: We significantly celebrated the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the iron-willed brilliant commander, with our particular respect and reverence for him.

Recalling that Comrade Kim Il-song has positively supported the Palestinian people's struggle since the first gun report of the palestinian resistance fighters rang out, the speaker stressed that he gives spiritual strength to all the peoples who are making revolution.

Comrade Kim Il-song in his early years founded the chuche idea and defeated Japanese and U.S. imperialisms, the ambassador said, and stressed: The present situation indicates that the chuche idea is the only, best idea leading the revolutionary struggle of the people along a straight road.

With originality he expounded that man, the social being with chajusong, creativeness and consciousness,is the master of everything and decides everything, which inspires the people, the ambassador said, and went on: Respected Comrade Kim Il-song has made a great contribution to the world revolution.

He is the great leader not only for the Korean people but also for the revolutionary peoples of all the fighting countries, he stressed.

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, in his speech noted that the strenuous struggle of the Palestinian people for restoring their legitimate national rights is raging ever fiercer day by day. He recalled that the Palestinian people finally proclaimed the foundation of the state of Palestine through a protracted struggle under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization with respected Comrade Yasir 'Arafat as its chairman. The Palestinian people's struggle is widely supported by the world revolutionary peoples for its justness, he said, and stressed: The Korean people will in the future, too, extend full support to and solidarity with the Palestinian people's just struggle to achieve the liberation of the country and territorial integrity and completely restore the legitimate national rights under the leadership of the PLO.

O Chin-u Sends Greetings to Zimbabwe Counterpart

SK2004104590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Richard Hove upon his appointment as defence minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The message expresses the belief that the frienly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and armies will grow stronger and develop on the principle of non-alignment.

Friendship Meeting Held at Indonesian Embassy

SK2004062890 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0446 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged Thursday [19 April] a friendship gathering with the officials of the Indonesian Embassy here on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the state visit to the Republic of Indonesia by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Soedjarwo Karim [name as received], charge d'affaires ad interim, and officials, of the Indonesian Embassy were present on invitation.

Present there were Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

WPK Sends Greetings to Brazilian Party

SK2004061690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent a message of greetings to Salomon Malina upon his reelection as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two parties will grow stronger and develop in the future in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wished him success in his responsible work.

Delegation Departs for UN Assembly Session

SK1904131490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, left here today to participate in a special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

It was seen off at the airport by Choe Su-hon, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and Boris Borozov, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Soviet Embassy here.

Kim Il-song's Open Letter to Voters on Elections

SK2004022390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Open letter sent by President Kim Il-song to all voters across the country—read by announcer]

[Text] To all voters across the country:

The meetings of voters in all constituencies throughout the country have nominated me as a candidate for deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA]. I think this is not only an expression of deep trust of all voters in our party and the government of the Republic, but also shows our people's firm will to consummate the socialist cause to the end under the banner of the Republic. I express sincere thanks to all of the voters for expressing deep trust in me.

For those who carry out the revolution, the greatest happiness and pride are to win trust from the people and to serve the people.

In the future, too, I will earnestly serve the fatherland and the people and devote myself to the cause of socialism and communism. Thus, I will repay the great trust and expectation of the people.

According to the regulations of the elections of deputies to the DPRK people's assemblies of all levels a deputy candidate must register at one constituency only. Therefore, I have decided to register in No. 205 Nakwon Constituency as a candidate for the election of deputies of the Ninth SPA.

Our socialist government is the representative of our people's independent rights and the genuine people's government which serves the popular masses. The SPA deputy elections this time, which are to be conducted amid the grand circumstances in which the great march movement of the nineties is being vigorously carried out, will become an important occasion in further strengthening our socialist government in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution and in vigorously demonstrating the superiority of our country's socialist system which has embodied the chuche idea.

All voters should participate in the upcoming elections as one with lofty dignity and self-confidence as the masters of the state and society and should elect representatives of the people—who are infinitely loyal to the party and the revolution—as SPA deputies. Thus, they should more firmly deepen the people's government and vigorously demonstrate the invincible unity and cohesion of our people who have been firmly rallied around our party and the government of the Republic.

I firmly believe that all the voters and all of the people across the country will register a new success in the struggle to expedite the complete victory of socialism and to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland by vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—holding aloft the banner of the chuche idea.

[Signed] Kim Il-song
[Dated] 18 April 1990

List of SPA Deputy Candidates Released

SK2004015490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Information released by the Central Election Committee on 19 April in connection with the conclusion of the registration of the candidates for deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] The Central Election Committee for the elections of the deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK releases the following information regarding the candidates for SPA deputies recommended at the meetings of the electorate across the country. They have been registered in their respective constituency election committees.

Comrade Kim Chong-il was registered as a candidate for SPA deputy at the Election Committee of No. 575 Musan Constituency.

Comrade O Chin-u was registered as a candidate for SPA deputy at the Election Committee of No. 467 Chorwon

Constituency; Comrade Yi Chong-ok at the Election Committee of No. 477 Kumgoi Constituency; Comrade Pak Song-cho at the Election Committee of No. 333 Changyon Constituency; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk at the Election Committee of No. 168 Yonbong Constituency; Comrade Kim Yong-nam at the Election Committee of No. 638 Huchang Constituency; Comrade Kye Ung-tae at the Election Committee of No. 684 Chungsong Constituency; Comrade Ho Tam at the Election Committee of No. 246 Pukchin Constituency; Comrade Chon Pyong-ho at the Election Committee of No. 512 Kumbit Constituency; Comrade Kang Song-san at the Election Committee of No. 594 Sabong Constituency; Comrade So Yun-sok at the Election Committee of No. 134 Sangbong Constituency; Comrade Choe Kwang at the Election Committee of No. 658 Wolsong Constituency; Comrade Han Song-yong at the Election Committee of No. 162 Sungni Constituency; Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang at the Election Committee of No. 293 Kosanjin Constituency; Comrade Hong Song-nam at the Election Committee of No. 568 Chegang Constituency; Comrade Kim Pok-sin at the Election Committee of No. 86 Todok Constituency; Comrade Chong Chun-ki at the Election Committee of No. 150 Choyang Constituency; Comrade Kang Hui-won at the Election Committee of No. 94 Hungyong Constituency; Comrade Cho Se-ung at the Election Committee of No. 226 Chongju Constituency; Comrade Hong Si-hak at the Election Committee of No. 501 Sinpo Constituency; Comrade Yi Son-sil at the Election Committee of No. 100 Kangnam Constituency; Comrade Choe Tae-pok at the Election Committee of No. 411 Sinpyong Constituency; Comrade Pak Nam-ki at the Election Committee of No. 235 Pakchon Constituency; Comrade So Kwan-hui at the Election Committee of No. 209 Yangso Constituency; Comrade Hwang Chang-yop at the Election Committee of No. 453 Soksa Constituency; Comrade Kim Chung-nin at the Election Committee of No. 613 Hoeryong Constituency; Comrade Yun Ki-pok at the Election Committee of No. 561 Puresan Constituency; Comrade Kim Yun-hyok at the Election Committee of No. 396 Kachon Constituency; Comrade Kim Hwan at the Election Committee of No. 580 Yongban Constituency; Comrade Kim Chang-chu at the Election Committee of No. 317 Chaeryong Constituency; and Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, at the Election Committee of No. 77 Oun Constituency. [passage omitted]

Kim Il-song Registered for SPA Election

SK2004060390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—A communique of the Central Election Committee for the elections of deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on registering the great leader President Kim Il-song as a candidate for deputy to the SPA was made public here on April 19.

The communique says:

The Central Election Committee for the elections of deputies to the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea informs that the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song, who after embarking upon the road of revolution in his early years, founded and brilliantly applied the immortal chuche idea and thus set up a dignified strong socialist country of independence, self-sustenance and self-reliance in defence in this land and has wisely led the revolutionary cause of chuche to the road of victory, devoting his all to the prosperity and development of the country and the endless glory and happiness of our people, was registered as a candidate for deputy to the SPA at the election committee of the Nakwon Constituency No. 205 for the election of deputies to the SPA of the DPRK.

Article on 'Superiority' of Election System

SK2004104190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article by Dr. Sim Hyong-il under the title "Superior election system fully guaranteeing people's political liberties and rights."

The article reads in part:

The genuine superiority of our election system finds manifestation, above all, in the fact that the noble purpose of elections here is to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the entire people.

Elections in our country are an auspicious, all-people political event for fulfilling our people's noble purpose and mission to further strengthen our people's government and consolidate the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses. That is why all the working people in our country greet elections as a great jubilee with a high degree of political enthusiasm and shining feats of labour.

How superior an election system is shown not only by the purpose of elections but, in concrete form, by who are recommended as candidates and elected.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has said:

"Our working people take an active part in state administration as masters of the country, and all share the equal right to elect and to be elected, irrespective of sex, occupation, property status, education, political views and religious beliefs."

In our country faithful servants of people, loyal subjects of the country are elected people's representatives to the power organs of all levels. In other words, among all the citizens above the age of 17, those who have devotedly worked for the state and the people, unassuming people of meritorious services, labour innovators and model functionaries who are loyal to the party and the revolution are elected deputies to the power organs of all levels without any restrictions on the principle of universal and equal suffrage.

The election system of our country has its peculiarities and superiority also in the method of recommending and electing genuine people's representatives.

In the elections of our power organs at all levels voters meet to recommend and register candidates for deputies by democratic methods in accordance with their general will and vote for or against by way of secret ballots.

At a voters' meeting a competent functionary who is worthy of trust and has shown examples in practical work and life is recommended as a candidate for deputy, reflecting the intentions of the community, and he immediately represents the will of the entire voters.

In our country there can be no individual greed for power, and there is not a single man who requests to be a candidate in place of a candidate recommended at a voters' meeting.

The genuine superiority of our election system is also seen in that a free election atmosphere is created to the full.

The principle of direct suffrage and secret ballots is strictly observed in our country, so all the voters may directly participate in elections without any restraint.

Kim Il-song 'Only Great Leader of the People'

SK2004102790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongynd April 20 (KCNA)—Voices lauding the great leader President Kim Il-song as the peerless great man and tender-hearted father of the people are growing louder among the South Korean people.

A high school teacher in Seoul surnamed Choe had this to say:
President Kim Il-song is the great leader who has devoted his whole life for the sake of the people.

In the world there is no such great man as him who looks after the people with utmost care and has become one body with the people.

President Kim Il-song is the only great leader of the people.

An inhabitant surnamed Kim in Chongro District, Seoul, said:
The general always finds himself among the people, takes meticulous care of their life and shows great loving care for them.

General Kim Il-song is the greatest statesman of all the great men ever known to mankind and a tender-hearted father of the people.

Respected Comrade Kim Il-song is, indeed, the great leader and tender-hearted father who has devoted his all to the noble cause for the country and the people all his life.

A certain Pak in Inchon who, caught in a storm in the sea, had been to the northern half of Korea said:
The North under the government of General Kim Il-song is an eye-opening world.

He is the leader and father of the people who shares view with the people and devotes his whole life for them.

Technical Innovation Shock Brigade Meets 18 Apr

SK1804154090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 18 (KCNA)—A national meeting of April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade members opened here today.

The meeting will sum up the achievements and experiences gained in the technical innovation shock brigade movement under the wise leadership of our party in the last decade and discuss measures to give a firm scientific and technological support to the grand march of the 90s.

Attending the meeting were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, and other senior officials.

Yi Chong-ok read a congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee to the participants in the meeting.

The congratulatory message says that the members of the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade and technicians have contrived many new technologies and widely introduced advanced technologies by displaying creative wisdom and talent, upholding the policies of technical revolution and the Technical Innovation Shock Brigade movement put forward by the party in the last decade and thus performed proud exploits in guaranteeing the drive to create the "speed of the 80s" scientifically and technologinally and accelerating the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy.

The members of the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade, it stresses, should effect a new turn in implementing the party's policy of technical revolution to meet the demands of the drive to create the "speed of the 90s".

It further says:
the main task facing the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade at present is to actively introduce results of the scientific researches and advanced technologies conducive to the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy and dynamically push ahead with the technical innovation movement to solve scientific and technological problems arising in the drive for increased production and economy.

The members of the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade should more powerfully press on with the technical innovation movement to give fullest scope to potentials of production and keep a constant and high rate of production, upholding the militant slogan of the party "let us make the existing economic foundation pay off through increased production and economy!"

Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, delivered a report at the meeting.

He summed up with pride the successes achieved in the Technical Innovation Shock Brigade movement in the past period and proposed measures to develop the movement further still.

Fully assessing the significance and importance of the mass technical innovation movement in socialist construction, dear comrade Kim Chong-il saw to it that April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigades were formed in all factories and enterprises in 1980 so as to further expand and develop the technical innovation movement of a shock brigade style into a mass technical innovation movement embracing all branches and units of the national economy.

The shock brigaders have registered remarkable successes in the past decade through their vigorous activities to resolve scientific and technological problems arising in the chuche-orientation, modernization and scientization of the national economy.

Notably, they have resolved a large number of scientific and technological problems to largely save raw materials and fuel and use new substitutes for them, and drawn broad masses into the fulfilment of the technical revolution to resolve new scientific and technological problems qualitatively in the shortest possible period.

As a result of the brisk shock brigade movement the number of inventions in the '80s increased 5.9 times the figure in the '70s. In the recent four years more than 1,100 units have won the title of model technical innovation factory, workshop and workteam.

The meeting raised before the members of April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigades and technicians heavy yet honorable tasks to creditably guarantee on a scientific and technological basis the general onward movement for the successful attainment of the far-reaching goals of the '90s.

They include tasks of resolving in a short time scientific and technological problems, first of all, for a sufficient supply of raw material, fuel and power and thus increasing their production on the basis of domestic resources and making a rational utilization of them.

The meeting also proposed measures to fully resolve scientific and technological problems arising in directing big efforts to technical innovations for the modernization of machinery and equipment and in keeping production in all branches of the national economy on a high level.

The reporter stressed the need to more vigorously push ahead with the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade movement, upholding the revolutionary slogan "Once the party is determined, we will carry anything out!," and thus make great contributions to the rapid development of the country's science and technology and the national economy.

The meeting continues.

Shock Brigade Meeting Ends

SK2004104990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1036 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—The national meeting of April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade members which opened on April 18 closed today, successfully concluding the discussion of the agenda.

The April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigade movement is a collective innovation drive of technicians and producers and a massive movement to contrive new technologies so as to rapidly develop science and technology and production in close combination.

The meeting summed up the achievements and experiences gained in the April 15 technical innovation shock brigade movement under the wise leadership of our party in the last decade and discussed measures to give a firm scientific and technological support to the grand march of the 90s.

A report and speeches were made at the three-day meeting.

The reporter and speakers stressed that the meeting would occasion a great turn in powerfully encouraging the entire shock brigade members and scientists and technicians to greater achievements of science and technology in the '90s.

Recalling with deep emotions the proud ten year-long course covered by the April 15 Technical Innovation Shock Brigades under the sagacious guidance of the party, they stressed the need to strengthen further still the activities of the shock brigades as intended by the party and thus actively promote the development of the nation's science and technology and the national economy. They expressed firm determination to carry into brilliant realisation the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientification of the national economy by thoroughly implementing the party's policy of technical revolution in the socialist general onward movement.

The meeting adopted a letter of pledge.

Founding of Korean Central Film Center Marked

SK2004061090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Central Film Distribution Centre was held at the Pyongyang International Cinema House on April 19.

Present there were Chang Chol, minister of culture and art and other officials concerned as well as employees of the centre.

A congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the employees of the centre was read out at the meeting.

The message said that the Korean Central Film Distribution Centre has creditably discharged its honorable duty as a propagandist and educator of the party's policy by enhancing the role of the film as a textbook of the working people's life and a weapon of struggle over the past four decades since its founding on April 22, 1950.

Director of the centre Yi Chun-hyong made a report.

He said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Korean Central Film Distribution Centre in April 1950 and clearly indicated the road to be followed by it in every period and at each stage of the developing revolution.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, he stressed, advanced a unique policy to brilliantly carry into practice the idea of the great leader on building cinematic art and wisely led the work for its implementation.

Under the wise leadership and loving care of the great leader and our party, many modern film facilities including the Pyongyang International Cinema House have been built in different parts, an orderly film distribution system has been established from the capital to provinces, cities and counties and a film distribution network covers the mountainous and remote island villages and fishing and trading fleets as well as town and country, industrial establishments, schools and all other places where people work and live.

With the brisk distribution of films, a new change has taken place in the people's mental traits and way of work, their attitude and style of work and remarkable achievements have been made in implementing the party's policies.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

Joint Venture Company Opens in Hamhung 18 Apr

*SK1904133290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1053 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 19 (KCNA)—The Millim-Uni joint venture company has been set in motion in the industrial city of Hamhung, Korea.

The company is operated in cooperation with the Uni Company in Yokohama under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The company with a plottage of some 4,000 square metres and a floor space of 1,400 square metres produces goods for the betterment of the people's living.

The commissioning ceremony took place on April 18.

Progress in Stockbreeding Detailed

*SK2004101990 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1008 GMT 20 Apr 90*

[Text] Pyongyang April 20 (KCNA)—A progress has been made in stockbreeding in Korea.

Several counties and dozens of farms have recently received the title of model stockbreeding county or farm for their laying a solid foundation of stockbreeding and registering remarkable achievements in the production of meat and eggs.

In Korea 12 counties have received the title, 710 farms and factories and nearly 6,700 workteams and workshops received it and 25 farms received it twice.

These units overfulfil their meat and egg production quotas by 10 to 80 percent and each farm household produces more than 150 kilograms of meat every year.

The development of stockbreeding is a result of the correct policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government.

Korea with mountains covering 84 percent of the territory directs great efforts to the production of non-grain feed such as amaranth, pumpkin and wax gourd for the development of stockbreeding.

A total of 109,000 hectares of newly cultivated land have turned into non-grain feed production bases in recent years.

Last year the output of non-grain feed nearly doubled the 1985 figure.

South Hamgyong Province built pumpkin arches along mountain valleys and embankments of water channels with a total length of 1,200 kilometres and produced 275,000 tons of pumpkin last year. In Pangyo County, Kangwon Province, and other counties non-grain feed accounts for more than 75 percent of the total amount of feed.

Successes have been made in scientific researches into stockbreeding.

A method of largely propagating new superior breeds of domestic animals has been developed.

The breeding of chickens has been put on a scientific basis, with the results that the survival rate of chickens has reached more than 90 percent.

Many scientific and technical problems such as the production of protein feed by an industrial method and the multiple propagation of the seed of a new protein feed have been solved.

South Korea

Official Wary of North Motive in Family Reunion

SK2004080490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0735 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—North Korea has publicly welcomed a South Korean farmer's bid to visit his aging mother in the North after 40 years of separation, but is covertly working to derail the reunion, a South Korean Government official said Friday [20 April].

Han Pil-song, 58, and his family are welcome to visit Han's 85-year-old mother, Choe Won-hwa, in Pyongyang and North Korea will offer them every convenience and guarantee their safety, Yi Song-ho, acting head of the North Korean Red Cross, said in a telephone message Friday to his South Korean counterpart, Kim Sang-hyop.

Han was reunited with his younger sister, Han Pil-hwa, in Japan on March 8 after 40 years of separation. The sister said Thursday in Pyongyang that her brother had been forced to invite his mother to visit the South by "impure forces," hinting that the North intends to prevent the reunion, the official said.

In a letter delivered Thursday through the North Korean Red Cross, she said their mother was determined that Han must "fulfill his responsibilty" as eldest son if he and his family visit North Korea.

Han wrote to his sister April 28 through the South Korean Red Cross to invite his mother to visit South Korea, adding his willingness to visit Pyongyang instead if his mother was unhealthy.

Han was granted permission March 23 by the South Korean Government to contact North Koreans to invite his mother to Seoul or receive an invitation from his sister to visit Pyongyang.

Trade, Transport Exchanges With North Sought

SK2004053790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek to expand direct trade with North Korea along with joint development of electricity networks and continental shelves in an effort to improve relations between the two sides, according to a plan adopted Friday [20 April] in an inter-ministerial conference.

The government will also work out a long-term plan to link the transportation networks of the two sides, rehabilitating the Seoul-Sinuiju and Seoul-Wonsan railroad lines and establishing connecting points in China, the Soviet Union and both Koreas.

The package also aims to encourage further opening of the the northern half of the divided peninsula, the world's most closed society.

The meeting was presided over by President No Tae-u and attended by officials from nine ministries.

Priority will be given to sports exchanges, which can be realized easily and without much preparation, conference sources said.

North Korean sports officials and athletes will be invited to the South before suspended Seoul-Pyongyang soccer and ice hockey matches resume and South Korean sportsmen will go to the North for training.

The South will expand the importation of agro-fisheries products and raw materials from the North and will seek to positively participate in North Korea's plan to develop Mt. Kumgang into a tourist attraction.

Formation of a non-governmental council for inter-Korean exchanges in the fields of science and technology will be encouraged and North Korean scientists and technological experts will be invited to international academic gatherings in the South.

Other plans include joint ecological surveys, cooperation in the U.N. development program and other international agencies, cross-country marches, joint archaeological surveys, exchanges of students, inviting North Koreans to folk events, joint preservation of and research into cultural assets, unification of Korean grammar and exchanges of religious leaders and artists.

While pushing ahead with contacts in non-political sectors, the government will also strive to realize a South-North summit, the conference sources said.

No Tae-u Urges Contacts

SK2004060590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0544 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Friday that priority in inter-Korean contacts should be placed on free travel of divided families and other exchanges that do not require major concessions by Pyongyang but encourage its opening.

Instructing at an inter-ministerial conference at the presidential office, No said exchanges in the fields of art, culture, sports and economy could herald improvements in inter-Korean relations.

"The key to the Korean question lies in the opening of North Korea and expediting its opening is the most important thing we have to do to advance territorial reunification. These endeavors could be quite costly, but we should view them from a long-term perspective and try to minimize the cost," No said.

He said Koreans could learn much from the experiences of the Germans, who started the struggle for unification with human exchanges and are now approaching political oneness.

The two Koreas could reap substantial rewards from economic exchanges, he said, ordering the Trade-Industry Ministry to draw up a list of mutually beneficial economic projects.

He ordered the Transportation Ministry to study building roads and railways along the East Coast to Mt. Kumgang in the North.

No told the Sports Ministry that it should help North Korean athletes at the Asian Games in Beijing this September although the two nations failed to send a single Korean team.

The Science-Technology Ministry was directed to assist North Korea in raising the level of its science and technology and to invite North Korean science students to study in the South.

Further on 'Aggravated' Pyongyang-Moscow Relation

SK1904131190 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 19 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 19 April that since the Soviet Union has been expanding and applying the policies of reform and openness toward the Northeast Asian region, and since there has been movement toward promoting the establishment of early diplomatic relations with Korea, the recent relationship between the Soviet Union and North Korea has been rapidly aggravated.

In accordance with this, it was learned that North Korea is breaking away from its foreign policy that was centered around the Soviet Union, including the East European socialist countries, and is instead changing its existing diplomacy line toward promoting relations with African and South American countries.

In relation to changes in the relationship between the Soviet Union and North Korea, a well-informed diplomatic source said, "Son Song-pil, North Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union, who went to Moscow after being appointed last March, has not yet presented his credentials to President Gorbachev, even though about 50 days have passed." This source also observed, "This is a very exceptional event between two allied countries. This kind of diplomatic situation can be viewed as being intentionally created by the Kremlin authorities."

This source stated, "It has been learned that Ambassador Son Song-pil is experiencing definite restraints in official diplomatic activities due to the delay of presenting his credentials." This source also said, "In pointing this out, the Kremlin authorities requested Kong No-myong, chief of the Korean Consular Department in the Soviet Union, who is playing the role of negotiator regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Korea, to show self-restraint in carrying out open activities."

Signs of aggravation in the relationship between the Soviet Union and North Korea can be seen from reciprocal criticisms in the government-run press of the two countries. Related experts believe that the Soviet Union has already started work to pressure North Korea to open its doors.

In relation to this, the Soviet Union in its weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY and through Moscow radio, downplayed Kim Il-song's anti-Japanese partisan achievements, and on 6 March, the North KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY openly expressed dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union by saying, "The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Korea is an intolerable act of legitimizing two Koreas and the division of the country."

Also in various events celebrating Kim Il-song's birthday, which was on 15 April, it was learned that North Korea unprecedentedly did not invite any Soviets residing in North Korea to these events. This supported suspicions that North Korea's relationship with the Soviet Union has become cool.

It was learned that according to changes in diplomatic circumstances, such as aggravated relations with the Soviet Union and the establishment of official relations between East European countries and Korea, North Korea is making every effort to expand diplomatic relations with African and South American countries to back up its existing policy based on the chuche idea.

A government authority revealed, "It was learned that recently, many high-ranking North Korean officials, including Vice President Yi Chong-ok, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-nam, and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-yong, were sent to so-called front-line countries such as Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, and Namibia including ten other countries in this region to expand its diplomatic activities." This source also added, "During this period Yi Chong-ok visited this area twice and promised economic cooperation and carried out negotiations to achieve exchanges and expand cooperation in the cultural and academic fields. This is noteworthy because it indicates the order of priorities in North Korea's foreign policy."

Thailand To Return Bombed Plane's Wreckage

SK2004015290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—Thailand will return the wreckage of a Korean Air (KAL) jetliner downed in the Sea of Andaman off Myanmar in 1987 to Korea shortly, it was learned Friday.

Informed government sources said 61 items including the debris of the ill-fated plane and the luggage of the passengers on board were likely to be airlifted into Korea Saturday [21 April] by a KAL aircraft. The government has been negotiating with the Thai Government for the retrieval of the wreck of KAL 858 since Thai fishermen recovered the wreckage last February.

The government is discussing with KAL sending the bereaved families of victims to the sea to continue search for the remains. The KAL Boeing 707 had 115 passengers and crewmembers on board at the time of the bombing on Nov. 30, 1987 by two North Korean agents.

Czech Group Arrives for Economic Talks

SK1904040990 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] A Czechoslovakian government mission led by Otomar Louda, deputy director-general of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade, will arrive in Seoul today to hold talks on trade and economic cooperation between Korea and the East European country.

During their stay until April 26, the Czechs will also meet officials of the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) and business leaders and discuss ways for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries.

Cooperation With Mongolia Desirable

SK1904012790 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview by HANGUK ILBO reporter Chang Hyon-kyu with Luisangin Haisandai (name as published), deputy director of the Orientology Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Science—the paper carries a photo of Luisangin Haisandai with a caption which reads: Luisangin Haisandai, deputy director of the Orientology Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Science, the first Mongolian visitor to the ROK since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and Mongolia. He studied in ten countries, including the United States, Japan, and the Soviet Union, after his graduation from the Mongolian National University, is well versed in international affairs, and speaks English, Russian, and Spanish.]

[Text] [Editor's Note] A noted Mongolian expert in ROK affairs recently visited the ROK. Mongolia established diplomatic relations with our country on 26 March, the first among the socialist states in Asia to do so. Mr. Luisangin Haisandai, 50, deputy director of the Orientology Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Science, came to Seoul on 12 April to make extensive contacts with ROK scholars at the invitation of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security. The Orientology Institute of the Mongolian Academy of Science is the only research institute charged with the study of international affairs under the Mongolian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

HANGUK ILBO held an exclusive interview on 16 April with Mr. Luisangin Haisandai who is known to have contributed considerably to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and Mongolia by his exchange of correspondence with the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security beginning in 1989 before the normalization of relations between the two countries. He said that a serious discussion is under way for the promotion of relations between the two countries, such as the sisterhood affiliation between the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security and the Mongolian Academy of Science.

Mongolia—which has so far been regarded as a "hostile" nation with its 69-year history as a socialist state, the oldest next to the Soviet Union—has emerged as an ROK partner for political and economic cooperation. It is the 10th richest nation in the world in subterranean natural resources. Mr. Luisangin Haisandai, who said that he is the first Mongolian government official to visit the ROK in 700 years, disclosed the atmosphere of the Mongolian government which is considerably interested in the model of economic development the ROK has attained.

[Reporter Chang Hyon-kyu] What is the purpose of your visit?

[Luisangin Haisandai] I can hardly pinpoint any specific purpose for my visit. I have just come to the ROK which I have been interested in since before the establishment of diplomatic relations. The Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security and the Mongolian Academy of Science exchanged information through correspondence even before the establishment of the ambassador-level diplomatic relations between the ROK and Mongolia, and my visit to the ROK has been realized through arrangements made by Mr. Choe So- myon, director of the ROK Institute in Tokyo [as printed].

[Chang] What are the prospects for the development of relations between the ROK and Mongolia after the establishment of diplomatic relations?

[Luisangin Haisandai] Since I am a historian, I have a limited knowledge about the affairs in other areas. However, now that diplomatic relations have been normalized, I anticipate active exchanges in economic and cultural fields. The official Mongolian newspaper, UNEN, carried a feature article on 27 March, the day after the normalization of relations between the two countries, saying, "The ROK is the country with the strongest prospects among the four dragons of Asia," thereby taking considerable interest in ROK economic development. Mongolia has rich natural resources, such as oil, copper, and livestock, ranking 10th in the world, but they remain undeveloped for lack of necessary technology and capital.

ROK's experience in economic development will offer a good example. We are short of rice, fruit, vegetables, automobiles, electronic appliances, etc. I have brought with me the business cards of the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Mongolia and I want to connect him with his ROK counterparts. I was surprised when I personally visited an automobile manufacturing plant. The ROK and Mongolia will be able to become good partners.

[Chang] What is the Mongolian people's opinion of the ROK after the normalization of relations?

[Luisangin Haisandai] Before the normalization of relations, the people in general thought that Korea was a poor country divided between the North and the South as taught at schools. However, this changed considerably when the athletes who participated in the 1988 Seoul Olympics began to talk about the ROK. I am curious to know what the ROK people think about Mongolia.

[Chang] Mongolia is enthusiastic in its endeavors to bring forth democracy as demonstrated by taking such an act as abolishing the communist party's one-party dictatorship.

[Luisangin Haisandai] Without reform in the Soviet Union, the spontaneous democratization of Mongolia would come much later. Mongolia now has such political parties as the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, former communist party; and the newly emerged opposition parties, such as the Mongolian Democratic Union (MDU), the Mongolian Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the New Progressive Party, however, the initiative for reform is held by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party rather than the opposition parties.

Now we have begun it, we will manage it well through reform rather than revolution.

[Chang] How do the Mongolian people, the offspring of Ginghis Khan, preserve their traditional culture?

[Luisangin Haisandai] Marking the 750th anniversary of the publication of the biography of Ginghis Khan, a monument is being built in Hentiy, his birth place, and the Ginghis Khan Hotel is under construction in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city. Also, an international symposium will be held from 26 August to 2 September, in which the ROK is also expected to participate.

Monthly on Secrets of Parties' Merger Into DLP

SK1904010790 Seoul SINDONG-A in Korean Mar 90 pp 153-169

[Article by Han Tong-myon: "The Three Parties' Merger: Secret Agreements Among No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam, and Kim Chong-pil"]

[Text] Is the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] the result of a "nation-saving decision" by No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam, and Kim Chong-pil or is it an "illicit political union?" On 22 January 1990, No and the two Kims announced a "joint declaration for the establishment of a new history," agreeing on the unconditional integration of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP], Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] into the DLP.

The five items of understanding announced with their joint declaration included the unconditional merger of the three existing parties into one new political party "with the sole determination of realizing before history and the Korean people" the three key issues of the day—democratic development, national harmony, and national reunification. No Tae-u characterized the merger of the three parties as a nation-saving decision to a convocation of DJP assemblymen held at Chongwadae the same day.

U.S. Ambassador to Korea Gregg remarked a few days later during a courtesy call on DJP Chairman Pak Tae-chun that the merger was an "inevitable choice." The Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] immediately charged, however, that "this coalition of the three conservative parties amounts to a political coup d'etat, implemented without the benefit of democratic process or the approval of the Korean people." The National Democratic Alliance of Korea or Chonminnyon, meanwhile, insisted that the merger amounted to "a prelude to a second Yusin." The foreign press said the merger could provide a consolidated, stable base for President No's continued rule. They also noted, however, that the possibility of political unrest stemming from the exclusion of the PPD was high.

Public support for the new party, as reflected in public opinion polls, started at a 60 percent approval rating, but dropped to below 50 percent. This outcome reflects a structural confrontation between the Honam [North and South Cholla provinces] and non-Honam areas, at least in part, resulting from the exclusion of the PPD for the new party. The poll results can also be seen as evidence of rising condemnation of the posturing for political power sharing which was a hallmark of the merger.

The public has heard little or no satisfactory explanations about how a merger could occur among parties that were pro-Yusin and anti-Yusin, parties that espoused and undercut democracy. The Korean people are curious about how traditional opposition parties could merge with a government party they previously had denounced as "the party which should not have been born." Some try to explain it all under the rubric "perestroyka," as used by Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Gorbachev.

The merger of the three parties occurred like a bolt out of the blue, and already a series of joint meetings seems to have put a single face on the new party. Some citizens can't help but harbor a few questions about what went on behind the scenes. What made the merger possible? What confidential deals did President No and the two Kims strike among themselves? What forces were at work in the negotiations?

Secret Agreement for Ascension to Power

Some observers suggest that the merger provided No Tae-u with personal security after he leaves office. Others see the merger as a power grab by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil. Those who subscribe to the belief that the merger was fueled by a "secret agreement" hold that the Constitution will be amended so that when No finishes the remaining three years of his term, Kim

Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil can take terms serving as prime minister under a cabinet system, or share power with one serving as prime minister and the other as president.

These observers believe that in exchange, the two Kims will work to ensure the success of the No administration's agenda at the Assembly. Some observers even believe the three leaders agreed to allow President No a certain degree of influence, a recognition of his right to participate in political affairs, after he completes his present term. Although much of this may be speculation, talk of secret agreements among No and the two Kims is difficult to deny because it originates from the DLP leadership itself.

The party Constitution which the DLP adopted on 9 February 1990 at a mandatory organizational conference was registered on 15 February with the Central Election Management Committee. The party Constitution remains provisional until it is officially ratified at the official party convention in mid-April. The document assigns equal positions, at least outwardly, to No and the two Kims. All three are members of the DLP's Supreme Committee, essentially party co-chairmen. Although No and the two Kims jointly proclaimed this equality of positions, and even if their equality is limited to the sphere of party operations, it nonetheless represents an unprecedented form of power sharing, given the sheer size and political muscle of the DLP.

The DJP held 127 legislative seats when it relinquished its position as the ruling party at Chongwadae and in the National Assembly. The new DLP party leadership arrangement puts the old DJP on relatively equal footing with both the RDP, which had only 54 seats in the Assembly and with the NDRP, which only had 34 seats. As major party leadership positions are being apportioned among representatives of the three former parties, it is hard to imagine that the merger could have occurred without some long term consensus or blue print on power sharing among the three co-chairmen.

Very little concrete information has emerged about any secret agreement relating to succession or even about the substance of the frequent Chongwadae meetings which preceded the merger. The three principals themselves are refusing to say whether they struck any deals over the succession, and they remain very reserved even about the type of power structure they regard as appropriate for the Seventh Republic. Judging solely from external appearances in the wake of the shock wave triggered by the merger, President No seems to have expressed an intention to yield power to the former opposition circles. However, nothing beyond the fact that he struck such an agreement with the former opposition leaders is clear.

President No did indeed make his firm intention to yield power to the former opposition during consultations on the merger. During talks between President No and RDP President Kim Yong-sam at Chongwadae on 12 January 1990, according to a concerned source, President No took Kim by the hand and led him on a tour of the construction now underway on the Presidential Office and the official presidential residence. No explained specifics about the building materials to Kim. Current refurbishment of the Chongwadae main building commenced at the end of last year and will take approximately two years to complete, ending in early 1992. Sources say No decided on the new construction more for his successor than for himself.

Only President No and Kim are privy to the details of the discussion during the tour of the construction site. A scant 10 days later, however, they announced the merger of the three parties. It is only common sense to assume that some discussion about power succession took place. Chongwadae aides and those responsible for arranging the merger did not come under attack for lack of media sense until after the 22 January merger. At that time, it became obvious that neither group saw the walk through the Chongwadae grounds by President No and Kim as important.

Kim Yong-sam appears to have the upper hand over Kim Chong-pil as a possible candidate to replace No, but presidential aides have said that regardless of who takes power, President No decided a long time ago that it would be desirable for an opposition leader to succeed him. No faced the task of settling Fifth Republic wrongdoings after his inauguration with only a minority position in the National Assembly after the 26 April general elections. By then No had already begun to wonder whether yielding power to the opposition was not unavoidable as well as desirable.

The ruling party and the opposition differ in their evaluation of President No's dedication to democratization. Aides say that President No believes that his dedication to democracy was "born again" with his 29 June Declaration, setting aside the question of whether No has a solid concept of democratization. President No also is dedicated to becoming a bridge between civilian government and military government, centered around the "new military" who led the 12 December coup. With this concept in mind, No sent Chon Tu-hwan—his friend and the man who hand-picked No as his successor—into domestic exile. No also went as far as to oblige his very close friend Chong Ho-yong to resign from the National Assembly.

Pak Chun-kyu confirms that No once commented that, "It would be desirable for the three Kims each to have a turn at ruling the nation." No made the comment to Pak during an informal discussion in December 1988 after Pak had been nominated to be DJP chairman. President No also emphasized the inevitability of establishing a cabinet-centered executive immediately after his election, pointing to the abuses of the direct presidential election system. No apparently intends for the cabinet-centered executive to be the method for power sharing among the Kims.

When the ruling party has fallen from power in the past and the opposition takes control, ruthless revenge aimed at former officials has been inevitable. With this in mind President No may have made the best choice when he formed the DLP with Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil.

Who Will Take Control of the Party?

The DLP's present power-sharing leadership structure is only temporary. It is difficult to determine what the standing of No and the two Kims will be under the revised party constitution to be ratified at the national party convention in the beginning of April. Founders of the DLP speculate that while President No will remain DLP president for the time being, he will introduce a new system under which only one person would serve as DLP chairman [taepyo choego uiwon]. In effect this would create a single chairman system in the party.

Kim Yong-sam is said to have demanded both a single chairman party system as well as the position of party president for himself from the very beginning of negotiations to merge the three parties. Sources say No did not appear to be adverse to Kim's request. Kim emphasized that the top party post must remain politically neutral during No's term of office. Kim also insisted that he must take the position of party president to guarantee the morality of the new party. Kim Chong-pil supposedly did not oppose such a plan either. RDP officials insist that No gave the outward impression of consenting to a new party structure with Kim Yong-sam as president, though there was no firm answer from No on this matter.

No Tae-u has occasionally expressed to his aides his intention to rise above party factionalism in his role as president of the country. Some people predicted No would resign his position as DJP president while still serving his presidential term, although the number of those who predicted this was very limited. DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu leaked the possibility of President No resigning his party membership in an interview on 28 December 1989 in the Tong-a Ilbo. At the time, Pak hinted at a reorganization of partisan political circles similar to that which in fact took place. Most Koreans took Pak's statement to reflect No's real intentions to resign his party position.

Those of the DJP faction of the DLP insist that No retain his position as party president. Some interpret this as a self-preservation policy of the DJP faction, who fear that the more popular "people's politician" Kim Yong-sam would monopolize the new party.

The party constitution decided on last 9 February completely eliminated the post of party president. The key to knowing the future leadership organization within the DLP lies in determining what secret agreements President No and the two Kims made.

Some of Kim Yong-sam's aides appear to believe that the position of party president will be turned over to Kim at the national party convention. These aides believe that even if No does not make such a move at that time that he will continue to serve as party president for a short time and then turn over the position to Kim. Assemblyman Hwang Pyong-tae describes the relationship between No Tae-u and Kim Yong-sam as "brotherly," while many others predict that No will continue to strengthen Kim's position within the party over the next two months. Some observers expect that once a process of refining remnants of the three old party factions is complete, emplacement of Kim as party president would not be necessary.

An extremely small number of voices within the RDP faction continues to insist that it is possible for President No to curtail his term and a cabinet-based government take his place. Should constitutional revision in favor of a cabinet system pass the National Assembly, and should cabinet-based constitutional government be implemented in conjunction with the opening of the 14th National Assembly in 1992, then President No could honorably curtail the remainder of his term of office due to expire in early 1993. Another possibility is that the assembly elections, scheduled in early 1992, could be carried out on the precondition of cabinet-based constitutional government. Under this scenario, however, No would remain as president and cabinet government would be implemented upon the scheduled expiration of No's term.

Behind-the-Scenes Discussion of Dual-Executive Government

DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu confirmed that a dual-executive structure was under discussion among the three parties immediately following the merger agreement. This heightened suspicions that No and the two Kims were striking some type of bargain on power sharing. According to the RDP, the DJP favored the dual-executive system, but both they and the NDRP disagreed. Within the dual-executive government system, the president would have exclusive responsibility for foreign affairs and national security, while the prime minister would take responsibility for domestic affairs. Some insist that No intends to use the dual-executive system as an expediency to gain acceptance for him to continue some level of participation in politics following his term of office. It also is believed to be a precondition for allowing the two Kims a shot at power. In other words, President No could honorably curtail his present term of office, living up to his pledge to limit himself to a single term of office as president, yet the dual-executive system would allow him to participate in national politics along with the two Kims.

As negative public reaction to Chairman Pak's comment built, however, the three parties quickly denied even that they had discussed or examined the dual-executive system. They also were quick to protest that talk of President No curtailing his term of office was intended to undercut President No's ability to rule.

First State Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on explains that revising the Constitution to allow a cabinet executive system during the 13th National Assembly would pose no problem because of the existing constitutional provision delineating the term of office for the presidency. Pak insists, however, that a supplemental clause to any constitutional revision must state that cabinet-based constitutional government would not begin until after the expiration of the current president's term of office. Despite Pak's confirmation that the dual-executive system is being considered, the initial controversy triggered by the rumor of talks among the three parties about implementing the system calmed down after each of the three parties issued vehement denials. Even if one believes the three parties' claim that they have never examined the dual-executive government system, there is absolutely no answer from anyone within the new party as to what system they will adopt, or how to interpret the absence of any responsible party comments on the issue.

The Old Ruling Circle and Kim Yong-sam: "Different Dreams in the Same Bed"

Sources claim that No and the two Kims have taken the first step towards establishing a cabinet system. In late 1989 Kim Yong-sam suddenly announced his "readiness to accept a cabinet system." Kim had previously been unable to relinquish his attachment to the direct presidential election system. Acceptance of the cabinet system may have been one of the preconditions for the three-party merger.

Continued objections to the dual-executive system, however, prove that the three parties remain far from a consensus on the matter of the future shape of the executive system. Although a significant agreement on the succession itself was achieved, apparently much remains to decide in regards to the formula for succession. In many facets, in fact, the old DJP circles and Kim Yong-sam seem to be dreaming "different dreams in the same bed."

The best example of this is the virtually open secret that the RDP does not feel dedicated to assuring that the new DLP hold sufficient Assembly seats to guarantee constitutional revision, two-thirds, or 200 seats of the 299 total. Some interpret this as a long-term precautionary move by Kim Yong-sam relating to the succession. By not guaranteeing the number of votes needed for constitutional revision, the current Constitution must remain as it is, thus leaving the door open for Kim to come to power via a direct presidential election.

Kim Yong-sam initially thought to cut approximately 10 assemblymen from the RDP ranks. He targeted Assembly deputies like Choe Hyong-u, who had daily slandered and challenged Kim's party leadership. Kim had already dropped Yi Ki-taek, Kim Chong-kil, No Mu-hyon, and Chang Sok-hwa for this reason. Kim also targeted those like Pak Chae-kyu who had been indicted for National Assembly lobbying scandals. Kim worried about a possible domino-effect after Yi Ki-taek broke away and hastily ushered a group of RDP assemblymen into the DLP to ensure his authority within the new party. Kim did not have the time to be selective on whom he brought with him, however. In the case of Assemblyman Kim Kwang-il, the results were totally unexpected, and even now this causes anxiety within the RDP faction.

During the DLP organization process, Kim Yong-sam has hardened his conviction to purge those he blamed for Fifth Republic wrongdoings—such as Yi Won-cho and Yi Hak-pong—as well as the pro-Paekdam Temple forces and the hard-liners within the new party.

Kim appears to have agreed to the purging of some of those around himself in exchange for the elimination of some in the DJP faction within the new party. The enforcement of the arrest warrant for Assemblyman Pak Chae-kyu on the afternoon of 13 February 1990 while President No, Kim Yong-sam, and Kim Chong-pil held a joint representatives' meeting is viewed as evidence of Kim's commitment to purging the negative elements within the RDP faction. Pak Chol- on explained this arrangement to Kim Yong-sam before Assemblyman Pak was arrested, and Kim had no choice but to acquiesce. As a result, those in the DJP faction who were targeted in the "Fifth Republic wrongdoings" clean up campaign, those who were automatically regarded as hard-core Fifth Republic figures, or those seen as close to Paekdam Temple within the DJP circles increased the pace of their political withdrawal and hunkered down for self preservation.

The DLP now controls 215 Assembly seats. If only 15 seats shift, constitutional revision will not be possible. Just which DLP Assembly deputies, if any, are likely to oppose a future constitutional revision bill will become clear during the DLP leadership selection and district reorganization process. Some former-RDP assemblymen say, however, that it is "natural" for Kim Yong-sam to be interested in the existing constitutional presidential system, where he could expect to exercise fuller power. This suggests that the nature of the future executive structure, whether cabinet-centered or president-based, has yet to be decided.

Kim Yong-sam commented on 12 February at the Kwanhun Club that, "The current president-centered system has only been in operation for only two years and now is not the time to discuss changing it." This idea of "prematurity" probably reveals Kim's true preferences in regard to the executive system. Speaking of a cabinet-centered executive, Kim noted that, "I'll discuss it if another co-chairman wants to talk about it," suggesting that Kim himself has no intention of bringing up the subject.

Kim Yong-sam's "Move To Determine Victory of Defeat," Hoisted on the Horns of His Political Weaknesses

Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil must be extremely satisfied with the path President No has chosen, his insistence in serving as a bridge between military and civilian government. The merger, however, can be viewed also as the only alternative for Kim Yong-sam, considering the number of recent instances when Kim's political career has come very close to ending.

The loss to No in the presidential election, and the slide of the RDP to the second place opposition party in the 26 April general election drove Kim Yong-sam and his party into a corner. Both the DJP and Kim Tae-chung's PPD were slowly encroaching on the RDP. Kim Yong-sam needed a quick way out of his predicament.

Kim achieved only limited success in his early 1989 attacks against the DJP and PPD using the mid-term assessment issue. It cannot be denied, however, that Kim overplayed his accusations that the DJP was attempting to rush the vote for their own benefit. Kim obviously failed in his mid-term assessment drive. The RDP began to feel isolated even as relations between the DJP and PPD began to improve. There was even talk of President No appointing PPD representatives to his cabinet.

Kim Yong-sam only made matters worse with his attempt to turn April's run-off election in Tonghae into a mini-midterm assessment. Any political capital he had gained earlier in the mid-term assessment debate was lost immediately when the NDRP candidate in Tonghae was involved in an election scandal. Kim found himself undergoing the embarrassment of receiving a summons to the prosecutor's office because of the scandal. When it became known in June that Kim had met with Yu Won-ho, who had visited North Korea with Rev Mun Ik-hwan earlier in the year, the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] also invited Kim to answer questions. Kim refused to respond to either summons.

Kim's trip to the Soviet Union last year provided him a chance to escape his predicament. Kim was able to improve his relationship with President No as well as open up a channel of discussion with then-Chongwadae policy adviser Pak Chol-on. Pak later played a major behind-the-scenes role in the partisan reorganization.

Kim Yong-sam was searching for a way out of his dire political predicament. Only recently and only to a limited range of people was it clear that Kim's choice of a coalition with the DJP would determine his political future.

An Expedient Means to Power

Kim Yong-sam met secretly at the Hyatt Hotel with core members of the ruling circle on 30 May 1989, one day before his private talks with President No at the Chongwadae prior to his visit to the Soviet Union. Kim put forth a proposal for a coalition between the DJP and the RDP to sound out President No's feelings. Kim requested that the ruling circle's position on a potential coalition be presented through President No. He allegedly discussed both a coalition as well as a possible future merger of the parties at his Chongwadae discussion with President No. Kim promised to support President No's agenda within the National Assembly and to guarantee No's personal security following his term of office.

President No agreed at this time to open a channel for dialogue after cautiously considering both his own and Kim's proposal regarding succession and partisan restructuring. A hot-line apparently was established between Minister Pak Chol-on and former Chief Party Presidential Secretary Kim Tok-yong. Pak played the predominant role on the 15-member committee formed to promote the merger of the parties. Kim Tok-yong, however, carried the RDP chairman's personal credential, and Kim played a major role in the negotiations, drawing the attention of core DJP elements.

Kim Yong-sam commented in an interview with the Japanese MAINICHI SHIMBUN at the time of the triparty merger that political restructuring had been decided six months earlier. Kim's statement confirms that he had reached a decision on the merger at the time of his visit to the Soviet Union in 1989. This differs from Kim's statement at the Kwanhun Club that he had proposed the deal to President No on 12 January 1990. It appears likely that Kim had no choice but to make such an assertion at the Kwanhun Club in order to conceal the confidential talks which had been continued between the DJP and RDP for the previous six months.

Towards the end of 1989, then-DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu elaborately outlined President No's concept of partisan reorganization. It included dissolving the DJP, forming a new party using the structure of both the DJP and RDP, and No's departure from the DJP. Pak's outline makes Kim Yong-sam's statement seem even less credible. Up until that time, however, the possibility of a coalition between the DJP and the PPD still existed. Some observers speculate that this is the reason Kim Yong-sam had no choice but to claim that the three parties' merger was decided on 12 January 1990.

Hwang Pyong-tae—the mid-wife of the new party—revealed recently that, "(RDP) President Kim's visit to the Soviet Union in June of last year provided the biggest opportunity for the merger of the three parties." Hwang further noted that, "(RDP) President Kim came to a mutual understanding with President No after he returned to Seoul from his visit to Moscow." This confirms that the party merger originated in the summer of 1989. As a minimum, we can say that the concept was formed prior to January 1990.

The DJP actually had been sounding out the RDP on the possibility of either a merger or a coalition government for some time. The approaches began immediately following the general election of 26 April 1989, long before

Kim Yong-sam's proposal. Both Chairman Kim Chae-sun and DJP Assemblyman Pak Chun-kyu supported the union of the DJP and the RDP. Kim Yong-sam didn't even choose to respond.

The DJP used Kim Chong-pil to change Kim Yong-sam's attitude about a coalition. The DJP also played on Kim Yong-sam's weak points, and used Hwang Pyong-tae to approach Kim and help bring him around. Hwang found his way into politics as an economic bureaucrat during the Third Republic. Chief Chongwadae Secretary Hong Song-chol and Minister Pak Chol-on took the lead in conducting liaison with Hwang. Kim Yong-sam perceived the DJP's approaches as originating from weakness and self doubt, and therefore launched an attack on the DJP. This may have been part of the motivation for Kim's mid-term assessment campaign.

Kim Yong-sam remained disinterested in the partisan reorganization advocated by the DJP for over a year after the 26 April 1988 general election. Kim's vulnerabilities as described above can reasonably explain his sudden change of heart, as he reverted to taking the lead on the issue and presenting his own plan to President No. Observers suspect that the Tonghae candidate bribery scandal and the Yu Won-ho incident were directly responsible for changing Kim's attitude about political realignment.

Clearly, Kim also has his sights set on the presidency. The triparty merger would be an expedient means to achieve this goal. Kim Yong-sam brings to the DJP an opportunity to soothe regional friction. Without the merger, meanwhile, the RDP would have had a difficult time surviving politically. Many DJP members supported a coalition with the PPD, and a two-pronged attack against the RDP by these two parties would have constituted a major threat. Although their roots are different, the RDP and DJP share the support of social classes and national regions. Kim Yong-sam also believed that continued democratization by President No would threaten both the RDP and Kim himself, since both would increasingly lose their reason for existence, that is, their opposition to antidemocratic forces.

The RDP's third place finish in the Yongdungpo District B by-election deeply shocked Kim Yong-sam, especially since the poor showing followed so closely on the heels of his party's defeat in the Tonghae by-election. It was obvious that the DJP enjoyed a solid base of support among Korean voters seeking political stability. The PPD, meanwhile, was successfully solidifying its own support base of Honam voters and the deprived social classes. The RDP was quite justified in its concern that it may end up sharing power with the PPD as part of an anti-DJP coalition.

Kim Yong-sam and His Disappointed Approach to Kim Chong-pil

Kim Chong-pil must certainly be satisfied with the results of the triparty merger. Kim played a passive role in the process of promoting political reform, in direct contrast to the active role played by Kim Yong-sam.

As president of the smallest of the four political parties, Kim Chong-pil had no chance of winning the presidency. A coalition with another party was inevitable for Kim. In the post-merger world, indeed, Kim is now closer to realizing his dream of being president—the incomplete revolution—than at any time since he crossed the Han River in his mid-30s.

Kim probably will not rise to power in the Seventh Republic, because of the small number of Assembly seats his NDRP faction holds and because of his record in our national struggle for democratization. If we assume, then, that the Seventh Republic will be centered around Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil's chances lay in the subsequent power structure. No DJP figure has yet emerged as leader of the pack. Kim Chong-pil was not included in the conception and early stages of the merger process, and has no choice but to exercise self restraint at the present time.

It is nevertheless true, however, that Kim Chong-pil had an idea for partisan reorganization similar to Kim Yong-sam's and actively approached President No with it. Kim Chong-pil simply did not possess anywhere near the power Kim Yong-sam had to persuade President No to go along. Thus Kim Chong-pil had no alternative but to take a back seat.

Kim proposed a union of the DJP and the NDRP during a private meeting with President No at Chongwadae on 10 July 1989 and was extremely disappointed when he was unable to secure a definite answer from No. Many believe that Kim even considered leaving politics at the time. Although Kim Chong-pil sought to promote his personal prospects by making several further proposals to President for coalition of the DJP and NDRP, No was unable to reveal his feelings because of his previous promise with Kim Yong-sam on partisan restructuring. In point of fact, President No feared a negative public response to a DJP merger with a party associated with Yusin remnants. No probably assumed that should the DJP and RDP merge, the NDRP would naturally fall in line.

According to rumors, President No asked Kim Yong-sam himself to approach Kim Chong-pil regarding a party merger. No supposedly made this request to Kim during their private talks preceding Kim's trip to the Soviet Union. Kim Yong-sam approached Kim Chong-pil after the Chongwadae talks. Kim Chong-pil secluded himself for about a month in his Chonggu-tong residence, and Kim Yong-sam undertook the slow process of gaining Kim Chong-pil's trust and confidence. Hwang Pyong-tae (then RDP Policy Committee chairman) was used to approach Kim due to their close relationship in the days of the Third Republic. On the NDRP side, Policy Committee Chairman Kim Yong-hwan, a long-time acquaintance of Hwang, took the lead.

Kim Yong-sam convinced Kim Chong-pil of the necessity for partisan restructuring. He cited points such as the evils of the four-party system and the problem of regionalism in politics. A concept of a conservative coalition emerged, as public perceptions about Kim Tae-chung worsened and the PPD began to change in the wake of the So Kyong-won affair. Kim Chong-pil commented at an NDRP general assemblyman meeting that, "The time is coming when something will naturally be decided," giving the impression that he was about to reach a decision on partisan restructuring. It is obvious, then, that there had been contact between Kim Chong-pil and Kim Yong-sam. Yet even at this juncture, sources say that Kim Yong-sam's own intentions did not extend to a triparty, conservative coalition among the DJP, RDP, and the NDRP, but included only a smaller-scale coalition between the RDP and DJP.

Kim Chong-pil's reference to a "grave decision" is now seen as an allusion to a two-party coalition between the RDP and NDRP, not a three-party merger. Kim Yong-sam, in the meantime, had maintained constant contact with President No. Source say that when Kim Yong-sam made his rather indifferent approach to Kim Chong-pil about a merger between their parties, that Kim Chong-pil displayed a rather restrained attitude.

Kim Chong-pil, Having Approached the Presidency

As the two Kims met privately to discuss a two-party coalition, they began to draw public attention to their fledging relationship as it developed over a series of golf matches in October 1989. Kim Yong-sam had not laid his hands on a golf club since his expulsion from the 10th National Assembly in the last months of the anti-Yusin struggle. Sources say that he used the meetings with Kim Chong-pil as an opportunity to pick up the clubs again. Kim Yong-sam continued to play golf amid the maelstrom of the so-called security-politics crisis. Aides later explained that Kim's weekly golf outings provided the only safe means by which the two Kims could develop their relationship.

During this period, Kim Yong-sam sent a floral tribute to Pak Chong-hui's Tongjak-tong cemetery on the 10th anniversary of the 26 October 1979 assassination of the former president, drawing intense public notice. Many saw Kim's action as a formal pardon of the Yusin regime. Kim Chong-pil had apparently made this a precondition for solidarity. Unaware of Kim Yong-sam's motivations, the floral tribute triggered negative reaction from within Kim's own RDP.

Some observers believe that the destiny of the two Kims was sealed as far back as Pak Chong-hui's 16 May 1961 military revolution, and that their political merger was simply the realization of that destiny some 30 years later. As a leading figure in Pak's 1961 military revolution, Kim Chong-pil took notice of Kim Yong-sam, who was a promising young Democratic Party assemblyman at the time. Kim Chong-pil was organizing the Democratic Republican Party [DRP] while practicing active restraint against the old politicians. Sources say that Kim Chong-pil approached Kim Yong-sam through a third party and invited him to join the DRP. Kim Yong-sam, of course, turned down the offer. In a curious twist of fate, 30 years later it is Kim Yong-sam who converted to the ruling party and succeeded in enticing Kim Chong-pil to join him.

Kim Yong-sam entered politics by being elected to the Assembly as a candidate of the ruling Democratic Party. Kim Chong-pil, on the other hand, emerged on the stage of power in a coup d'etat and for the next 16 years alternated between being in and out of power. Despite the differences in background, the two Kims have found their way back to their "political roots" [chongchijok kohyang] with the formation of the new party.

Irrespective of who led Kim Chong-pil into the merger, the formation of the new party has greatly strengthened his previously feeble political stature. Kim also finds himself in a position to approach the presidency, a position which Pak Chong-hui's heavy-handed restrains never allowed him.

Are the Assistants Who Helped Merge the Parties Aiming for the "Time After Next?"

The founding of the DLP can be characterized as the result of a secret agreement between one generation of politicians, President No and the two Kims. We must turn to those who helped hammer out the new party, however, to get a picture of the next generation of power. President No and the two Kims conceived the principal outline of the party merger, yet their assistants did the spade work and the job of packaging the merger, working in extreme secrecy. In some aspects, their work even served to limit the options available to No and the two Kims.

The ruling and opposition camps both recognized First State Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on as the most loyal supporter of President No's concept of partisan restructuring. In the end, Pak was the person primarily responsible for implementing the reorganization. Pak originated the idea to dismantle the DJP, a creation of the Fifth Republic, for the advantage of the Sixth Republic. Pak convinced President No of the need to develop a concept of partisan restructuring, and sources say Pak also took responsibility for creating the framework for such a plan.

Pak's aides say that Pak originally developed the idea to simultaneously clean up both the Fifth and Sixth Republics. Pak thus played an active role in former President Chon's exile to Paekdam Temple, as well as in other operations to clean up the vestiges of the Fifth Republic. The DJP was unable to respond quickly enough to opposition and public demands for solving the Fifth Republic issue. Pak, therefore, formulated measures to deal with Chon and his relatives and made his ultimate objective the obliteration of the single remaining symbol of the Fifth Republic, the DJP.

While dismantling the DJP, Pak succeeded in developing a mechanism to support President's No concept of acting as a bridge between military and civilian government. By creating the new party, Pak developed a framework in which power could be handed over to one of the two Kims. In addition to developing the relationship between President No and Kim Yong-sam which planted the seed for the new party, Pak played a pivotal role in fine-tuning the confidential agreement on the succession between the two party leaders, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil.

Pak enjoyed a keen understanding of President No's feelings and intentions towards the DJP. This prompted Pak's decision to approach the RDP while determined to dismantle the DJP. Though President No had been a leader in the creation of the Fifth Republic from the outset, No had no special relationship with the DJP. The power clique at the time of the founding of the Fifth Republic was centered around powerful organizations such as Chongwadae and the Defense Security Command, concerned individuals now acknowledge, and the DJP amounted to nothing more than an "accessory" to power. Thus, the major power group centering on President No had not entered the party.

President No served as a national constituency assemblyman in the 12th National Assembly, as DJP chairman, and then as the party's presidential candidate on his way to the presidency. Few know the "restraints" placed on No by former President Chon Tu-hwan and his associates, and the effect that those restraints had on No's perceptions of the DJP.

Then-President Chon demanded that No run for election in Chon's home district of Sodaemun District (Yonhuitong) in the 12th National Assembly elections. No's aides perceived this as a deliberate attempt by those around Chon to place No in a hopeless situation. In the end, Chon exempted No from having to run for direct election, but Chon instructed No to assume responsibility for the DJP candidate in that district, Yun Kilchung. Sources say No worked very hard to assure Yun's election.

No had to stand instead as a national constituency candidate. On one occasion, No travelled to Assemblyman Kwon Chong-tal's Andong election district and endured the insult of being made to wait outside Kwon's office for dozens of minutes. While serving as DJP chairman, No was obliged to endure the restraints and cold treatment of NSP Director Chang Se-tong and State Minister of Political Affairs Ho Mun-to. No endured trials and insults repeatedly. From time to time, No would take one person from his entourage and retreat to the banks of the Han River in Misari where the location for rowing competition can be found and vent his anger. Sources say Pak Chol-on witnessed this venting on several occasions himself. Pak Chol-on is the only vestige from the Fifth Republic still serving President No, and Pak pursued partisan restructuring and the dismantling of the DJP with the knowledge of No's attitude towards the DJP well in mind.

"Superman" Pak Chol-on's Lofty Conception

Pak Chol-on met with RDP Assemblymen Hwang Pyong-tae and Kim Tok-yong frequently, stealing the time from national issues and North-South relations. Source's say Pak placed partisan restructuring as only a part of a larger, comprehensive political goal. Pak emphasized the "new thinking" and partisan restructuring which had to follow the resolution of the Fifth Republic issue. Both Hwang and Kim expressed complete agreement with Pak's methodology.

Sources say Pak even discussed the future political roles of Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil with Hwang and Kim Tok-yong. Pak explained that it was inevitable for the two Kims to hold power for a short time, until the next generation of politicians emerged on the stage. Pak also discussed this issue with Kim Yong-hwan, chairman of the NDRP's Policy Committee. Kim agreed, although his proposed timetable for partisan restructuring differed somewhat from Pak's.

Such talk has fueled speculation within the new party that a second generation of leaders will emerge once President No and the two Kims have served their turns and stepped down. Pak Chol-on and Kim Tok-yong are often singled out, being at a stage now where cooperation between the two contemporaries is possible.

The influential politicians involved in the founding of the DLP are mostly in their forties. When No and the two Kims have passed their peaks politically, therefore, the next generation of politicians are expected to rise and form the core of the DLP, should it survive. This second generation will continue to support the two Kims after President No steps down, even if a cabinet-centered executive is implemented, and the two Kims rotate between president and prime minister. The second generation is probably waiting, however, for the exit of the two Kims from politics and the rise of their own generation.

Evidence suggests that Pak Chol-on emerged on the political scene as a result of the fall of former ruling circles. The results of the recent partisan restructuring process, however, prove that Pak is a "superman." Pak had overall command from the very beginning over DJP personnel involved in discussions with the opposition over partisan restructuring. Pak also exercised control over former DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu and former Floor Leader Kim Yun-hwan. In the final stages, Pak took command of the Chongwadae team and those in charge of the intelligence organizations and coaxed them into a final decision.

Pak Chun-kyu's resignation as DJP chairman was essentially a firing. Pak had leaked details of the ruling camp's intentions concerning restructuring in the last days of 1989. Pak Chol-on blackballed Kim Yun-hwan, on the other hand, for attempting to involve himself in the restructuring process. The two cases share a number of similarities. Former Floor Leader Kim was overseas before the agreement on the triparty merger was announced. Kim found himself unable to return to Korea until he had taken some time to overcome the incredible shock of the agreement. When he did return, he discovered that he was cut out completely. Sources say that Kim declined to accept a position in the DLP because of his previous liaison with the PPD. Kim understood that the new party had excluded the PPD and felt that accepting a DLP leadership position would be embarrassing.

Pak Chol-on is certainly in a position where he cannot be ignored. He has put much effort into the merger, and much remains to be done before the new party is registered officially on 15 March.

The DJP's Smokescreen and the PPD's Anger

The good ship DLP has set sail as a colossal ruling party. Why the PPD continues to protest vehemently against the new party is a mystery that has yet to be solved. The PPD has even denounced the RDP and Kim Yong-sam as turncoats. The failure of the PPD to capitalize on their situation as the sole opposition party with the conversion of the RDP and NDRP to the ruling side has raised significant suspicion.

Some suggest that although the PPD is in an advantageous position, their position is not sufficiently advantageous for them to publicly acknowledge their improved situation. The PPD behaves as though the DJP had swindled them of a huge sum of money. The PPD also is accusing President No of betraying the people after exploiting the mid-term assessment and Fifth Republic issues to their fullest.

It is no secret that the PPD actively considered policy cooperation and the possibility of coalition government with the DJP from the moment they emerged from the 26 April 1988 election as the leading opposition party. PPD policy expert Cho Se-hyong gradually sought out the DJP's feelings on such cooperation. Party President Kim Tae-chung tried to improve his negative image among the people as the very personification of struggle and rejectionism. Kim's interest in power sharing stemmed from his concern for his Honam region, which has been ostracized from national politics. Kim's relationship with President No over the past two years should be viewed in this context.

The PPD actively cooperated with the DJP in March 1989 in solving the mid-term assessment issue. The PPD made no secret of its efforts to avoid incidents which might embarrass President No or the DJP. The PPD, of course, had no desire whatsoever to see a mid-term assessment. PPD President Kim called the postponement of the assessment "a supreme political work of art" after his modus vivendi on the issue with President No in talks at Chongwadae.

The PPD also deliberately avoided bringing up President No's role during the Kwangju hearings it directed at the National Assembly. Sources say the PPD also agreed to limit the scope of their Kwangju attack to one person, Chong Ho-yong. Finally, the PPD agreed to let the resignation of Chong Ho-yong and the testimony of former President Chon serve to conclude the Fifth Republic issue.

The PPD obviously adopted these instances of cooperation with the DJP from a long range concept of power sharing in the Sixth Republic and an eventual shot at the presidency of the Seventh Republic.

How Was Kim Tae-chung Deceived?

The DJP, RDP, and NDRP were all willing to exclude the PPD from a comprehensive party merger which occurred not three weeks after the conclusion of the Fifth Republic issue. Kim Tae-chung can't help but be appalled by the results and certainly cannot be blamed for feeling betrayed.

The DJP had strung Kim along during meetings with the PPD on power sharing. Indeed, Kim Tae-chung's anger may stem from the fact that the ruling party concealed its true plans for partisan restructuring from him until the last moment.

First Minister for Political Affairs Pak Chol-on approached PPD Floor Leader Kim Won-ki in December 1989 during the peak of Fifth Republic settlement negotiations and proposed a DJP-PPD coalition. Kim Tae-chung was far from adverse to the idea when Kim Won-ki presented it to him. Kim Tae-chung simply suggested that the two sides take some time to examine the possibility of a coalition. Kim realized that the two parties had different roots, and that negotiations would be rocky while the Fifth Republic issue was at its peak. Kim also needed to mold public opinion in the Kwangju area to be receptive to such a merger.

Pak Chol-on responded that there was no time, and demanded a decision from the PPD. Sources say the PPD was bewildered as to why the DJP was so hurried. The PPD's suggestion to proceed at a cautious pace cannot be construed as an outright refusal. Sources near Kim Tae-chung say that Kim intended to use the issue of abolishing antidemocratic laws such as the National Security Law as a litmus test of DJP sincerity following the conclusion of the Fifth Republic issue. Kim also intended to make a final decision on the merger in the spring of 1990. Kim met with dissident professors such as Chang Ul-pyong and recommended that they join the PPD, perhaps in preparation for a merger with the DJP. This suggests that Kim had not ruled out such a union between the two parties.

The DJP had originally recommended the idea of a coalition government to the PPD. The DJP cut off all discussions and liaison with the PPD, however, after the PPD request for time to consider the proposal. Kim Won-ki sought out Minister Pak before President No's private talks with Kim Tae-chung to sound out his feelings on the question of partisan restructuring. Pak again told Kim, however, that there was no time.

Kim Won-ki began to suspect for the first time that a PPD-DJP coalition was not part of the partisan restructuring the envisaged by the DJP, and he so reported to Kim Tae-chung. Kim Tae-chung, however, continued to believe President No's reserved statements about partisan restructuring and the president's negative New Year press conference comments regarding a grand conservative coalition.

Kim Tae-chung asked President No about DJP Chairman Pak Chun-kyu's proposal for conservative-liberal union during his 11 January 1990 Chongwadae talks, while refuting the propriety of a DJP-RDP-NDRP coalition. PPD sources say that No calmed Kim's fears by saying, "I accepted Chairman Pak's resignation because his statements were untrue." Kim later revealed that at the Chongwadae meeting President No asked him, "Why don't you ask to join forces with me?" Kim also claimed that he declined No's invitation to form a coalition.

Thus Kim Tae-chung insists that No proposed a coalition between the DJP and PPD as late as 11 January 1990. Kim Yong-sam, however, states that political reorganization had been decided on six months earlier. The PPD cannot help but feel deceived at the sudden merger of the three parties, which proceeded, of course, in accordance with detailed, prior agreements.

Kim Tae-chung has responded as though this was the first time in over 30 years of political life that he had been deceived. Perhaps because of his reputation as the most resourceful strategist in Korean politics, Kim may have found it difficult to accept that in fact he had been totally fooled.

The PPD has been trying to determine just where political boundaries are drawn in the aftermath of the merger. The PPD was not, however, completely excluded from a coalition with the DJP. The RDP and NDRP would have seen a merger of the ruling party and the leading opposition party as a deliberate plan to eliminate them from the political scene. One must wonder what the PPD would have done had it been wearing the shoes of the RDP and NDRP.

Elder Politicians To Help Form United Opposition

SK2004015890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] Elder politicians, who are now in virtual retirement, have decided to come out to help push a merger of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and the Democratic Party [DP]. In a meeting at a downtown restaurant Wednesday, they vowed that they will not sit idly by while current political developments reach crisis proportions.

Participants in the meeting included Yi Chol-sung, Yi Min-u, Y Chi-song and Yi Man-sop. All of them at one time led opposition parties. They said they would meet regularly to appraise political developments and present remedial measures.

According to them, they will present to the PPD and formative DP formulas on how they can best be merged in the interests of the nation and the state. However, they made it clear that they would not engage in politics unless a broadly-based merger is materialized.

At present, Kim Tae-chung of the PPD and Yi Ki-taek of the embryonic DP are sounding out the possibility of a merger. To help create a proper atmosphere, the PPD put off its national convention scheduled for the middle of May. The convention was originally scheduled for Apr. 29-30.

Demonstrations Mark Anniversary of Uprising

SK2004034690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0240 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—An estimated 59,000 people participated in rallies and demonstrations throughout the country to mark the 30th anniversary of a student uprising Thursday [19 April], resulting in injuries to 148 students and 142 policemen, the police said Friday [20 April]. Some 34,000 students from 94 universities and colleges across the nation took to the streets with the students battling riot police with firebombs and rocks, police said. There were 606 arrests, 47 for throwing firebombs.

On April 19, 1960, students marched in the streets here to protest against dictatorship, corrupt politicians and a corrupt administration. The uprising toppled the government of President Syngman Rhee. A generation later in Seoul, some 3,000 students occupied a street in central Seoul for an hour during the evening rush hour and chanted, "Shatter the ruling Democratic Liberal Party," "Down with President No Tae-u." When the riot police moved in to disperse them with tear gas, they lobbed firebombs and stones. Later, some 2,000 students moved to the Myongdong shopping district in central Seoul and staged hit-and-run protests against police from 8 p.m. for one and a half hours.

During the day, 10,000 students from 34 universities in Seoul, including Seoul National, Yonsei and Korea, held separate campus rallies to mark the anniversary. Flowers placed in the 4.19 cemetery by No and Kim Yong-sam, ruling party co-leaders, were burned by dissidents and students in the afternoon.

Assembly Unable To Solve Broadcasting Strike

SK2004041890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly failed Thursday [19 April] to find any common ground on the work stoppage at the state-run

Korea Broadcasting System (KBS), where a protest over the appointment of a new network president has entered its ninth day.

The unprecedented dispute at the state-run network was debated by the Assembly's Education-Information Committee while the man at the center of the storm, KBS President So Ki-won, resolutely rejected demands he resign.

The government also stood firm against the union's call for So's resignation and labeled the work stoppage illegal, dimming hopes for an early settlement.

But it cannot be ruled out that talks between President No Tae-u and Kang Won-yong, chairman of the Korea Broadcasting Commission, supervisory body of the network, may result in a compromise on the dispute. Their meeting is expected Friday [20 April] or Saturday [21 April], an informed source said.

Opposition lawmakers said there was a procedural flaw in the KBS board of directors' designation of So as the network's chief and strongly demanded So, a reputed union buster who the union claims is an undemocratic figure and thus unsuitable for the post, resign to settle the conflict.

Most committee members from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) advocated the position taken by So and the government, but some also called for So to step down, an indication that the DLP is split over the KBS incident.

The committee heard testimony from Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol, So and KBS union representatives.

The giant network was crippled when the powerful union, taking issue with So's time in public service under dictatorial rulers and alleging that the government forced the KBS board to pick So as KBS president, blocked So from entering the premises last week. The union criticized So's appointment as the government's anti-democratic plot to seize control of the network.

So, a writer and a former president of the pro-government newspaper SEOUL SINMUN, added fuel to the confrontation when riot police, at So's request, stormed the KBS main building to break up protests and rounded up 117 unionists, who were later released.

Rep. Yi Chol from a formative opposition group, tentatively named the Democratic Party, claimed that the KBS dispute was touched off by government moves to take control of the network. Yi demanded the government apologize to the people and that So step down.

Rep. Son Chu-hwan from the DLP, however, upheld So and the government and charged that the walkout could not be justified.

So, refusing to step down as KBS chief, said, "If I were to resign as president of KBS, it would be an admission that the union was right to frustrate an appointment made by due legal procedure, and it would be a denial of the law and the system."

Choe said, "It was inevitable for the police to step in to stop their illegal action."

Rep. Kang Sam-chae from the DLP, defying the government and his party's basic position, called for the resignations of both So and Choe, holding them responsible for the dispute.

"So forfeited his post as KBS president by requesting police intervention," said the former opposition spokesman, a member of Kim Yong-sam's faction in the DLP.

The KBS stoppage may spill over to Korea's other broadcasting network as the unions at the Munhwa Broadcasting Co. (MBC) and the Christian Broadcasting Station (CBS) have resolved to go on a sympathy strike if the KBS incident has not been settled soon.

More than 2,000 KBS staff members staged a rally Thursday and affirmed their determination to stay off the job as long as So remains in office.

Other Broadcast Unions Threaten Support Strike

SK2004014490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Unionized workers of the nation's other two major broadcasting networks, MBC [Munhwa Broadcasting System] and CBS [Christian Broadcasting System], have resolved to join forces with striking employees of the Korea Broadcasting System by launching a sympathy strike soon.

The labor union of the Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. decided Wednesday to boycott program production in support of KBS employees who have continued a walkout for eight days demanding the resignation of newly appointed president So Ki-won. MBC's union leaders of Seoul and local stations are presently discussing detailed tactics and a timetable to push the collective action.

"The appointment of So as KBS president and So's resort to police force to quell a workers' protest clearly indicate the government's intention to keep the broadcasting network under its control and to suppress the mass media once again," said a statement adopted after the meeting.

Unionist workers of the Christian Broadcasting System also formed an emergency committee to discuss action in solidarity with KBS employees. The committee is positively considering launching a production boycott to support the demand of KBS workers.

Meanwhile, about 200 KBS employees yesterday blockaded the entrance of its main building in Yoido to prevent president So from reporting for duty. So, who showed up in front of the building at 9:30 a.m., became engaged in a brawl with protesters and turned back soon after.

Meanwhile, a government task force, composed of working-level officials of the Labor Ministry, the Economic Planning Board and the Trade-Industry Ministry, discussed measures to settle the prolonged KBS turmoil.

Participants of the task force, whose priority duty is to guarantee "industrial peace," reached the conclusion that swift government action should be taken to prevent the massive strike of KBS employees from spreading to other workplaces.

They agreed that the walkout of KBS employees would bring about negative effects on the nation's future labor-management relationships although the KBS situation cannot be regarded as a genuine labor dispute.

The KBS turmoil comes at the moment when spring wage bargainings between management and labor are taking place in workplaces nationwide they said, adding they fear it might give momentum to collective action of workers at other companies.

Government To Allow New Television Networks

SK2004021690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—The government will allow the creation of two commercial television networks under a project to restructure South Korea's broadcasting system, Information Minister Choe Pyong-yol said Thursday. Choe told the National Assembly Education-Information Committee that the government will permit the establishment of two privately-owned television stations and make one of the three Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) television channels independent from the state-run network to exclusively air educational programs. "Conglomerates will not be permitted to own the networks, but the final decision on the form of ownership has yet to be decided since a huge amount of capital, amounting at least 100 billion won (about 14.2 million U.S. dollars), will be needed," he said.

The government will set up a specialized broadcasting transmission authority by a merger of the personnel and facilities of KBS and Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. (MBC), the country's two broadcasting networks, Choe said. He said the Information Ministry is working on details of the restructuring projects, which are likely to be finalized as early as this month. Two private broadcast media—one television network and one radio station—were forcibly disbanded along with several newspapers and news agencies in 1980 in a streamlining to usher in former President Chon Tu-hwan's rule. Choe dismissed as "totally groundless misunderstanding" charges that his ministry's restructuring of the network is designed to keep the broadcast media under government control.

Securities Companies' Overseas Investment Rises

SK2004064490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Seoul, April 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean securities companies had 803.1 million U.S. dollars invested in overseas capital markets at the end of March, up 31.6 percent from the same date last year, the Securities Supervisory Board said Friday [20 April].

Stock holdings increased 15.6 percent to 53.6 million dollars and bonds rose 77.7 percent to 26.6 million dollars during the year.

During the first quarter, Korean securities firms took over securities worth 269 million dollars on foreign markets, up 77.2 percent from a year earlier.

Capital markets in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia attracted the most money, 51.7 million dollars, followed by Europe with 20.2 million dollars and America with 8.3 million dollars.

The increase in overseas investment was partially attributable to the pursuit of profits on the strength of the dollar coupled with a recession on the Seoul stock market, board officials said.

Burma

Regional Commander Views Situation in Irrawaddy

BK1804074990 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 0630 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Major General Myint Aung, chairman of Ayeyarwady [Irrawaddy] Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Southwest Military Command, held a meeting at the divisional conference hall [in Bassein] at 0800 on 13 April to explain the four major tasks that have to be accomplished. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting, Maj. Gen. Myint Aung said he noticed the implementation of the four major tasks has somewhat slowed because the elections are approaching. We must not ease off, and we must continue to work with dynamism until the time our duties are handed over, he said. Continuing, the divisional commander said the first task of enforcing law and order is concertedly being implemented through judiciary, legal, and public means, and progress is being made in this regard. Although the number of gambling cases has declined, gambling has not yet totally disappeared. We must strive to achieve this goal. The second task is to secure and improve transport and communications facilities. Although encouraging results have been achieved in this regard, more efforts must be made to improve upon the results. [passage omitted]

Regarding the fulfillment of food, clothing, and shelter needs of the people, we have to say that prices of paddy and rice remain unstable. That these prices remain unstable even in a rice bowl area like Ayeyarwady Division, a region which the whole country relies on for rice, is not proper at all. Although it is true that the sale, transportation, and storage of commodities can be freely made under an open-door policy, we will not pardon someone taking advantage of the system for profit. We have a sufficient amount of fertilizer, but the fertilizer should only go to the peasants. Rice millers should be aware that they play a key role in keeping checks on the major traders who always intervene in the trade through various means. Help must be given to the rice millers. The whispering campaign that there is not enough rice for consumption in Myanmar [Burma] because rice production has declined is not true. Under the present situation, only the rice prices remain unstable. The rice production rate remains steady, he said. He then discussed urban and rural construction projects and collective efforts to make the elections a success. [passage omitted]

In delivering a concluding speech, Maj. Gen. Myint Aung said: In this period, while we are in charge, all work done in the interests of the country and the people should be done in a concerted manner and through genuine goodwill.

ABSDF 'Strongly' Condemns Foreign Investors

BK2004005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 2104 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Bangkok, April 19 (AFP)—The All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) on Thursday [19 April] condemned foreign investors in Burma for dealing with Rangoon despite its oppressive policies. An ABSDF release said it was reacting particularly to a recent report from Burma that Pepsico Inc. had set up a joint venture in Burma in which it would hold 35 percent of shares and local investors would hold the rest. The ABSDF release quoted Pepsi vice president for Southeast Asia, Barry Shea, as saying "obviously we like to stay out of politics."

The ABSDF release claims more than 300 foreign enterprises have set up operations in Burma since the government, led by military strongman General Saw Maung, took power in 1988. Most of them are from Thailand, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia and some Western countries, including the United States, Britain, Canada, West Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. "We, the members of ABSDF, on behalf of the Burmese people, strongly condemn all foreign companies both private and government which are doing business in Burma today," the release said, adding: "All these businessmen and governments which are dealing with Saw Maung's military regime are selfish."

The Rangoon military junta, blamed for widespread human rights abuse, came to power after a bloody coup on September 18, 1988. Since then, the regime has reportedly arrested more than 4,000 political party members, and sentenced about 100 people to death. "We believe that if there are more and more foreign investments the people will be more and more oppressed by Saw Maung's fascist military regime," the ABSDF said.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Bilateral Accords on Traffickers' Assets Signed

BK1304052290 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0358 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 13 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia will sign bilateral agreements with the United States and Australia to enable it to confiscate assets of drug traffickers. The Malaysian Government already has such an agreement with Britain, and Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said in London the government hoped to enter into many more such agreements with other countries.

Dr. Fadzil, who is in London attending a three-day drug summit, said the 112 countries which attended the meeting had recognised the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to the drug problems in its joint declaration and not just concentrate on demand reduction.

In Kuala Kubu Baru near here, Inspector-General of Police Haniff Omar said Thursday [12 April] police have seized 700,000 ringgit (U.S. $259,000) worth of assets from a suspected drug trafficker under detention. This is in addition to the 1.3 million ringgit (U.S. $480,000) in cash and property confiscated from the man in September. Police are working closely with the US Drug Enforcement Agency to seize assets he is said to have in the United States.

Foreign Minister Speaks on Relations With India

BK1404083890 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's visit to Malaysia in June will help establish personal ties between leaders of both countries. Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar says such ties are vital as Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir has not known Mr. V.P. Singh closely. V.P. Singh succeeded Rajiv Gandhi following his party's victory in the Indian general election last year. Datuk Abu Hassan says he does not note any glaring differences between Mr. V.P. Singh's administration and that of Mr. Gandhi with regard to Indian-Malaysian relations.

Speaking at a press conference summarizing his recent three-day visit to India, he said Malaysia and India had a government-to-government relationship. Malaysia hopes that whoever becomes prime minister will perpetuate the relationship. Datuk Abu Hassan said he was satisfied with his visit as a special envoy of the prime minister because Mr. V.P. Singh had confirmed that he would attend the G-15 [Group of 15] summit from 1 to 3 June in Kuala Lumpur. The Indian prime minister will stay back for two or three days after the summit for a visit.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Criticizes Sihanouk's 18 Apr Statement

BK1904122890 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1110 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 19 Apr (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs of the State of Cambodia, Wednesday [18 April] gave an interview in Phnom Penh to the press agency SPK on Sihanouk's statement transmitted on 18 April over the radio Voice of America. The interview reads:

[SPK] Mr. Prime Minister, do you have something to say about Sihanouk's statement broadcast Wednesday evening by the radio Voice of America?

[Hun Sen] I do not want to reply to the vulgar remarks of the prince, nor do I want to make war with him through the press, but I want to inform public opinion, other than Sihanouk's, of my view. So far, I have known only that Sihanouk has put forward a nine-point proposal, but I have no idea of its details. It is for this reason that I have not reacted to it, either positively or negatively. Moreover, when dealing with Prince Sihanouk, I have to be on the alert because he is a person who has too many whims. The reason that the prince shamelessly and groundlessly accused me is that he could not draw my attention to his efforts. He thus tried by all means to force me to answer. However, when he failed to do so, he accused me of groundlessly rejecting his proposal.

Prince Sihanouk should understand that politics requires frankness and seriousness. If he was angry, it was because he was forced to flee to Thailand following the artillery shellings by the Phnom Penh government Armed Forces. He should refrain from talking without rhyme or reason while giving free reign to his anger.

The Government of the State of Cambodia is not responsible for the obstruction to the Cambodian peace, and Prince Sihanouk himself also admitted that the Khmer Rouge constitute this obstacle. Moreover, Prince Sihanouk should shoulder the responsibility, because he is the head of the coalition dominated by the Polpotist Khmer Rouge.

Paper Discusses Military Service Registration

BK2004091590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[PRACHEACHON editorial, date not given: "Effectively Implement the Decision on Registration for National Defense Duty"]

[Text] The 17th session of the National Assembly, first legislature, on 15 July 1989 promulgated a law on military service which comprises 10 chapters and 36 articles. The law has been publicized among all provincial and municipal units and localities throughout the country and is being enforced.

To effectively stimulate the enforcement of the law on national defense duty and enable all citizens to grasp it even more profoundly, the Council of Ministers recently issued Decision No. 10, dated 5 March 1990, on the military service registration to enable all citizens to more clearly understand their duty toward the nation by taking part in attacking the enemy and defending the state power, people, and national independence in the circumstances required by the nation and at a time when the genocidal Pol Pot-Sihanouk-Son Sann groups are carrying on their senseless activities, burning down and destroying everything, against our people and our national achievements. This is a matter that all male citizens of ages 17 to 30, regardless of their religious belief, nationality, and social status and with the exception of employees and workers currently employed in the Armed Forces and police units, must pay attention to by enlisting for military service.

The decision is divided into seven chapters and 25 articles that clearly define the requirements for citizens to enlist for military service in various localities, communes, wards, factories, enterprises, and educational institutions. It has enabled the masses to understand their noble duty toward the motherland and the equal status of all citizens, whether they are the offspring of the rich or poor or cadres of any level. All seven chapters clearly stipulate favorable conditions for citizens.

The registration for military service is divided into two categories. The first category is the military service registry for citizens who are 17 years old to enlist as those awaiting military service and for citizens ages 18 to 30 to enlist as those ready for military service. The second category is the military reservist registry for combatants ranked between private second class and sergeant major who have completed their military service for the compulsory three-year period or longer and who have left the army to return to their own localities or original units. It is also for combatants ranked between private second class and sergeant major who have completed their military service ahead of the compulsory period, but have served for more than two years, and who have been through the military training program or participated in several battles.

The decision also specifies that combatants who have finished their duty in the army shall receive cards or documents stating they have completed their duty from their army units. Within 15 days after returning to their own localities, they shall report to their communes, wards, or original units to present the documents and enlist in the military reservist registry. Moreover, every year at the beginning of January, the people's committees of communes and wards and directors of high schools, vocational schools and classes, specialized education secondary schools, and higher education schools shall prepare lists of and report the numbers of their local populations and students aged 17 and those between 18 and 30 to districts, provincial seats, precincts, or suburban districts. Every year at the beginning of April, the people's committees of communes and wards shall send letters to unregistered inhabitants, students, and freelance workers living in their localities informing them to enlist in the registry for those ready for military service.

The decision states that citizens who are not required to enlist for military service are wounded or handicapped citizens who cannot serve in the army; citizens held in prisons or detention centers; citizens who had been condemned by tribunal for criminal offenses; and citizens whose right to serve in the army has been withdrawn by the tribunal. All sectors and institutions concerned at all levels must make investigation into any incident in this connection and take prompt action against any individual who acts against the decision. They must dare to punish any cadres, party members, and authorities who violate the military service law by preventing their sons, nephews, and relatives from being enrolled. However, the institutions, such as military units, cities, districts, provincial seats, precincts, wards, and suburban districts must cooperate with the Interior Ministry in sending working groups to inspect the census of and registration in the military service registry.

In 1990, we must do our best to achieve great success in implementing the decision on military service registration. We must avoid carelessness and lack of encouragement which will only turn the enrollment into forcible recruitment that will upset the people and cause bad effects on the political system. Successfully and correctly carrying out the decision on military service registration by ensuring equal rights for all male citizens aged 17 to 30 and effectively implementing the law on military service, our people will enthusiastically join the army, thus ensuring its high quantity and quality.

Chea Soth Receives Lao Cooperation Delegation

BK2004062090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] On the afternoon of 19 April at the Council of Ministers office, Comrade Chea Soth, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, granted a cordial audience to the Lao commission for economic, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation headed by Lao Trade Minister Comrade Phao Bounnaphon, which came to pay a courtesy call on him. On the occasion, the Cambodian leader briefed his guests on the State of Cambodia's all-around development, which attests that although Cambodia is between war and peace, the people's living conditions are gradually improving. In his reply, the Lao minister extolled the Cambodian Government and people for their drive in overcoming all difficulties and obstacles to achieve remarkable successes and, in particular, for favorable conditions provided to the Lao delegation during its visit to Cambodia.

Sihanouk Says Hun Sen Rejects Peace Clauses

BK2004001490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Cambodian President Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk stated that Hun Sen of the Heng Samrin regime has rejected two important clauses of his nine-point proposal. He said Hun Sen has objected to a UN interim administration and a UN peacekeeping force presence in Cambodia. These are two points of his latest nine-point peace plan, which he drafted in Sereipheap Village in a liberated zone. Hun Sen's rejection of the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia was clear evidence that he has allowed Vietnam to modify Cambodia's border demarcation both on land and sea and has given a portion of Cambodian territory to the SRV. The samdech had said that he only recognized the Cambodian-Vietnamese land and sea border prior to 1979 [as heard].

Ranariddh Letter Denies Support of Neutral Camp

BK1904003590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Apr 90 p 10

[Letter from Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia; place and date not given—from the "Letters to the Editor" section]

[Text] Concerning a report in THE NATION of April 17, entitled "Site B Refugees for Neutral Camp," the FUNCINPEC/ANS [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia/National Sihanoukist Army] completely denies the claim in the report that 80 percent of the displaced persons of Site B camp support the setting up of a neutral camp. We deplore that the questionnaires about the neutral camp were distributed to the camp population without thorough explanation, as also pointed out in the report that "the displaced Cambodians have a very limited knowledge of the concept of the neutral camp." Furthermore, we also deny that Site B camp is under the control of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's Army (ANS) as mentioned in the report. Site B is under the control of UNBRO [UN Border Relief Organization] and civil administration. However, it is true that the people living in Site B are HRH [His Royal Highness] Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's followers.

As stated by HRH Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, as a liberal and democratic movement, we entirely respect all decisions freely made by our people. We are deeply sorry to notice that one is too often focusing on our compatriots, such as those in Site B, who enjoy security and fairly good conditions of living, in the camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, while neglecting the suffering of those in Cambodia under the dictatorship of the Marxist regime of Heng Samrin and Hun Sen. Finally, we would like, once again, to point out that the ANS fighters are all volunteers. And it is well-known that Hun Sen regime is using forces to push our people to fight against their own compatriots, and that the regime is now infamous for its violations of human rights, corruption and social injustice.

[Signed] Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of HRH Norodom Sihanouk in Kampuchea and Asia

ANS Reports Control of Stoung District Seat

BK2004114490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 1100 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] The High Command of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS] reported that Stoung District seat [Kompong Thom Province], captured on 12 April, is still under control of the ANS forces and that the majority of people in Stoung District supported and assisted the ANS forces. According to the report, while the ANS was controlling Stoung District seat, people in Kompong Thom town were in panic upon hearing that the enemies were mobilizing forces from various provinces to attempt to recapture Stoung District. However, it was reported later that a number of Cambodian soldiers dispatched to come here had already deserted their ranks.

The ANS forces have also distributed rice and cooking oil to the Cambodian inhabitants in Stoung District. This is because during their onslaught to free Stoung District seat, the ANS forces seized four large granaries and burned down two others. The ANS forces also killed 75 Vietnamese-Heng Samrin soldiers, wounded some others, and seized a large quantity of weapons and ammunition and many trucks.

Laos

Phoumi Vongvichit Meets Phnom Penh Delegation

BK2004104890 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee] and acting president of the Republic, received here on April 19, Dr. My Samedi, president of the United Front for Construction and Defense of the Kampuchean Fatherland of Phnom Penh capital who is on a current visit here.

Present at the reception was Channong Inthavong, president of the Lao Front for National Construction of Vientiane capital.

Acting President Phoumi Vongvichit hailed over the delegation's visit to Laos, describing it as a contribution to the strengthening of fraternal relations between the two countries.

In the morning of the same day, talks were held between the Phnom Penh front delegation and officials of the Vientiane front. The sides exchanged views on front activities of the two capitals.

The Phnom Penh front delegation left here on April 20 after a two-week friendship visit to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic].

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives New Ambassadors

Meets Envoy to Australia

BK2004033090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon at the presidential palace, acting State President Phoumi Vongvichit handed credentials to Vang Latsavong, who is the designate ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to Australia. At the same time, the acting president also gave advice to the Lao ambassador to Australia on certain important duties and principles to be followed. In particular, the envoy should firmly grasp and appreciate the resolutions, policies, and plans recently adopted by the party and state. For example, in implementing the foreign policy of Laos, we must always keep in mind that we have to further develop and strengthen relations and cooperation with host countries in the interests of the two peoples and for peace.

Meets Algerian Envoy

BK1904125190 Vientiane KPL in English 0944 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (KPL)—Acting President of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] Phoumi Vongvichit received here today the credentials of Mr. Lamari Mohamed, the newly appointed Algerian ambassador to Laos whose residence is in Hanoi (Vietnam).

The acting president and his guest, on this occasion, exchanged views on international issues as well as that involving South East Asia.

The acting president also wished the newly appointed ambassador success in his diplomatic mission in Laos in order to contribute to further strengthening of the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The diplomatic tie between the Lao PDR and the Algeria People's Democratic Republic was established on May 18, 1973.

Envoy Holds News Conference on Iraqi Situation

BK2004014490 Vientiane KPL in English 0931 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (KPL)—M. Mahdi Talib Ibrahim, charge d'affaires of the Republic of Iraq to Laos, gave a news conference here on April 18 where he talked about the situation in his country and the Lao-Iraqi relations.

The Iraqi charge d'affaires informed the Lao and foreign newsmen about the overall Iraqi domestic situation including difficulties it is facing as well as the dark scheme of the reactionary forces against the Republic.

He also pointed out the importance of the development of the Lao-Iraqi situation.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Indian Delegation

BK1904121290 Vientiane KPL in English 0935 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (KPL)—H.E. [His Excellency] Phoun Sipaseut, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister for foreign affairs, received here yesterday a delegation of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs led by its secretary, H.E. C. Das Gupta, in charge of Asia-Pacific region.

A talk was held in the morning of the same day between Lao Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Souban Salitthilat and Mr. C. Das Gupta. The sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, regional, international questions as well as the Cambodian issue of mutual interest.

The two sides held that the time honored relations of friendship between the two countries have been profoundly developed.

On the Cambodian issue, the two sides shared unanimous views that all international decisions should take into consideration the views of both: the State of Cambodia and the Democratic coalition government.

The two sides also informed each other about the situation in their respective countries.

Referring to the Kashmir issue, the Lao side reaffirmed that the issue should be solved peacefully in accordance with the Simla agreement signed in 1972.

The talk was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and frankness.

The Indian secretary arrived here on April 17 for a 2-day visit to Laos. While here the delegation also visited some places of interest.

Delegation Returns From UN Meeting in Geneva

BK1904120490 Vientiane KPL in English 0813 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, 19 April (KPL)—A Lao delegation led by Mr. Kithong Vongsai, deputy minister of trade and foreign economic relations, recently returned home from Switzerland following the participation in the second preparatory meeting of second UN conference on assistance to underdeveloped countries held in Geneva, during March 26-April 6, 1990.

He disclosed, the meeting in Geneva attended by representatives from 105 countries and over 30 international organizations was held in preparation for the second UN conference on the assistance to the most underdeveloped countries in the world due to be held in Paris, France, from September 3-14, 1990.

The meeting discussed the future action plan and continued the implementation of the action plan adopted at the first meeting in September 1981, which called for an assistance from nations to underdeveloped countries by allocating 0.15 percent of the national revenue, Mr. Kithong Vongsai noted.

Economic development in underdeveloped countries has faced a lot of difficulties: the shortage in resources and competent management personnel, insufficient communication and transportation network, no outlet to the sea, and others, the head of the Lao delegation continued.

The conference to be held in Paris will make an assessment on the implementation of the previous action plan and work out a new action plan for the 1990's, he further pointed out.

At the meeting, he concluded, the Lao delegation also informed the participants of the situation of the socioeconomic development and the party and state's new line on economic restructuring aimed at broadening economic relations with all countries. This new line was highly valued at the meeting.

Delegation Leaves for Nonaligned, UN Sessions

BK2004034190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] A Lao People's Democratic Republic government delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Souban Salitthilat, left Vientiane for New York yesterday to attend a ministerial-level extraordinary session of the Nonaligned Movement, scheduled to be held there on 24 April. The Lao Government delegation will also attend an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly on international economic cooperation, 23-28 April.

Post, Communication Delegation Ends SRV Visit

BK1904124790 Vientiane KPL in English 0948 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (KPL)—A delegation of the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction led by its minister, Mr. Bouathong, successfully ended its week-long visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

During its stay there, the Lao delegation and Vietnamese officials of the General Department of Post and Communication met and exchanged views on the plan for post and communication cooperation for 1990 between the two countries.

The Lao delegation also toured various production bases in Vietnam.

Border Agreement Signed With SRV Province

BK2004040490 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] On 10 April, the administrations of Laos' Sekong Province and the SRV's Quang Nam-Da Nang Province signed another border agreement between the two provinces on the basis of the border agreement signed between the two countries in mid-January 1987. The signing ceremony of the agreement between the two sister provinces was held in Sekong Province. The signing of the new agreement was aimed at ensuring better security maintenance and providing conveniences to the people in the two provinces in paying visits to one another. At the same time, the border committees between the two provinces also agreed that every other year a meeting will be convened between them to review and improve the implementation of the agreement.

19 More Refugees Return From Thailand 19 Apr

BK2004105590 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 20 (KPL)—One more group of 13 families consisting of 19 Lao refugees returned home from Thailand yesterday afternoon and they were welcomed at a ceremony organized at Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Prefecture, "VIENTIANE MAI" reports today.

The ceremony was performed by the Lao and Thai authorities and witnessed by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

This voluntary repatriation marked the sixth batch of such a move in 1990. Among the returnees were 16 original residents of Vientiane Prefecture and three from Vientiane Province.

Well-Wishing Ceremony Held for Souphanouvong

BK1904121890 Vientiane KPL in English 0934 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vientiane, April 19 (KPL)—Officials and representatives of various institutions, on April 16, organized a well-wishing ceremony (Basi) for Souphanouvong, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and his family.

On the occasion of Lao New Year B.E. [Buddhist Era] 2533, the president, Mr. Souphanouvong, expressed thanks and blessing to the well-wishers and his compatriots.

Philippines

Ileto Believes U.S. Not Involved in 'Plots'

HK2004103790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Apr 90

[By Rey Arquiza Mobile Unit No. 21; italicized portion in English]

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto believes that the United States is not involved in plots to overthrow the Aquino government. He made the statement at the Association of Philippine Ambassadors' meeting at the Manila Hotel today. According to him, the scheduled exploratory talks will lead to a new bases treaty. Ileto also favors a gradual bases phaseout from five to ten years. This is his personal opinion and not the Aquino government's official stand, although it could carry some weight considering his position as national security adviser. He did not explain his view about the United States not being involved in any destabilization plan against the Aquino government. He simply said: *I believe that the United States is not behind the destabilization moves to topple the Aquino government.* He added that if the U.S. bases go, there will be an economic dislocation in the country because the government is not yet prepared for their withdrawal. He also posed the question of financial backing for fighter planes. [end recording]

Need for U.S. To Honor Pledge Reiterated

HK1904044190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 0400 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Mangiapus reiterated that the United States must first fulfill its financial assistance pledge before negotiations for a new bases treaty could be discussed. At the same time, he said that any request for additional rent for the U.S. bases will be tackled after the negotiations have taken place.

A member of the president's committee on the bases stated that the government has set aside two million pesos for the exploratory talks which, will be held on 14 May.

Former Secretary on Renegotiating Bases Treaty

HK2004032990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 38

[Text] Former agrarian reform secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago expressed support yesterday for the renegotiation of the Philippines-U.S. military bases agreement (MBA), which is set to expire in September, 1991.

She proposed a new agreement good for five years and a renegotiation every five years thereafter.

Santiago disclosed her support for renegotiation yesterday when she addressed the graduates of the Republic Central Colleges in Angeles City.

"Removal of the bases in 1991 is precipitate and will add possibly intolerable pressure on the job markets not only in Pampanga but also in other strategic provinces," she said. Santiago proposed that before the bases are removed, the government should provide alternative means of employment to Filipinos currently employed in, or financially dependent on, the base.

"Removal of the bases next year will create a power vacuum in Asia. We must remember that politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum," Santiago said, citing principles of international law. She said that premature removal of the bases would "precipitate political disequilibrium" in the Asian region, and cautioned sobriety among the youths in discussing the issue.

She had specialized in the field of international law when she earned the degree of doctor of jurisprudential science at the University of Michigan. She later worked as legal officer of the United Nations in Geneva and as legal consultant of the Philippine embassy in Washington, DC.

"There is no need to rush to judgment on the issue of renegotiation. It is more prudent to proceed with all deliberate speed," she said.

She advocated extension of the MBA for at least five years, in order that the Philippines can gain time to prepare for the eventual removal of the bases, and to strengthen the Philippine bargaining position.

"It is a basic principle in international transactions that a party must negotiate from a position of strength. We are not in this position. We need at least five years to consolidate our bargaining position, which will include the question of U.S. economic aid," she said.

Santiago warned that if the bases are summarily removed, American economic aid to the Philippines might be drastically reduced. "If the bases are removed and American economic aid drops to unexpected levels, it is not the upper or middle classes that would suffer, but the poorest of the Filipino poor. This is why we must make haste slowly, and resist the temptation to indulge in fashionable but short-sighted sloganeering," she said.

She cited the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and in Nicaragua as some of the reasons for potential cuts in American economic aid to Asian countries, including the Philippines. "American economic resources are being channeled by events to Europe and Latin America. Western Europe economic resources might be conserved in a manner that might produce a fortress Europe. In this light, to agitate for the immediate removal of the U.S. bases is parochial and sophomoric," she said.

Santiago cited polls and opinion surveys indicating that the majority of the voting population prefer the retention of the U.S. bases. "The majority of the Filipinos voters have categorically expressed support for American military presence. Let us abide by majority rule, as a basic tenet of our democracy," she said.

Santiago's formal statement on the controversial bases issue is considered significant in the light of wide-spread speculation that she might run for president in 1992. On repeated inquiries from the public during open forums following her speeches, Santiago has announced that she is "seriously considering" entry into politics as a presidential candidate.

Local Workers To Contest Eviction From Clark

HK2004033590 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[By reporter Ros Manlangit]

[Text] A move by U.S. authorities at Clark Air Base (CAB) to evict Filipino civilian workers from their post-World War II dwelling areas inside the base may yet provide some interesting sidelights to the forthcoming talks on the future of the American military facilities here.

The ejectment, termed conveniently by CAB authorities as a "phasedown" process intended to reduce the number of temporary residents in the huge military complex, will be implemented next month starting in the so-called Civilian Housing Area (CHA).

However, the irony in the move is that the "phasedown" will be implemented on May 12, two days before the Philippines and the United States hold exploratory talks on the future of the bases.

NEWSDAY was told by leaders of the 220 Filipino workers to be affected by the move that they saw no relation between their planned ejectment and the bases question but were aware that their resistance to the plan will attract attention.

The leaders already have defied an order purportedly from Lt. Col. F.C. Kennedy, commander of the Clark Air Base 3rd Services Squadron, for them to submit a voluntary "phasedown" plan and a census of Filipinos living in the CHA not later than last April 9.

The CHA consists of 24 buildings clustered south of the Mitchell Highway in Clark. It has been home to Filipino civilian workers since 1946 when the site was established by Maj. Gen. Eugene Eubank, then commander of the 13th U.S. Air Force.

Some CHA residents, NEWSDAY learned, said CAB authorities were not being truthful in saying that the "phasedown" was part of a process to put "order in the base." On the other hand, CHA members suspect that the housing area was being eyed to be developed into housing sites for U.S. personnel and their dependents who already have ample and well developed living areas in the base.

In any case, the CHA residents said they will contest the CAB phasedown plan and use their neighborhood group called the CHA Association to take up the case with base authorities. The CHAA, they said, is a duly registered organization recognized and respected by CAB officials since 1968.

Base authorities have spelled out a three-phased process to carry out the "reduction plan of temporary residents" mainly in the CHA. Under the plan, Filipino workers who have been in the CHA for not more than one year as of May 12, 1990 will be moved out as well as contractors, private hires, volunteers and others who have been there on or after January 1, 1986. Those who have been staying in the CHA on or before January 1, 1988 will be moved out not later than June 10, 1990. Filipino nursing and medical students allowed to reside in the CHA during their on-the-job training at a base hospital were given until July 1 to vacate the CHA, when their training course end.

CHA residents have assailed the CAB "phasedown" plan as arbitrary since they said there was no justification at all to move them out of the CHA.

In a position paper, they said the continued maintenance of the CHA as housing site for Filipinos was necessary since the area was put up and initially dubbed as "Filipino labor camp."

According to them, their decades of stay was justified on the following:

The CHA provides Filipino base workers with economical and easily accessible means of housing within the base. Filipino workers provide ready service during times of emergency. Another reason they advanced is that housing units within the vicinity were exorbitantly-priced.

Aquino Meets With Ambassadors of EC Nations

HK2004104590 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Italicized portions in English]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today met with the ambassadors from Italy, Switzerland, Britain and other European Community member states.

Speaking after the meeting, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao revealed that the president and the ambassadors discussed the issue of foreign investments in the Philippines. President Aquino expressed hope for better relations with the European countries.

[Begin recording] [Estanislao] *Of course, my concern is the Philippines' point be told accurately and well. We have got to be true to our own people, but also to people coming from other countries. And I am very glad that the president has decided to have this briefing with the ambassadors. And this is going to be first of the series.*

[Reporter] *So what specifically did the ambassadors discuss?*

[Estanislao] *Well, nothing about politics, nothing about security. I guess the presence of Governor Cuisia may have sent the signal that we are interested mainly in economics and finance.*

[Reporter] *Why did you decide to call for the meeting?*

[Estanislao] *It was the president who called for the meeting because we have to tell the story of the Philippines.*

[Reporter] *What story?*

[Estanislao] *The fact that when the president took over, the foreign debt in relation to GNP was 93 percent. Now it is down to something like 63 percent. A lot of people don't know that.* [end recording]

Meanwhile, Secretary Estanislao also admitted that the ongoing energy crisis will have an adverse effect on foreign investments. He added that foreign investors are concerned about another coup. However, he stressed that there has been no decline in foreign investments coming in to the country.

[Begin recording] [Estanislao in progress] *...are coming in and those who were on wait-and-see have decided to go ahead. But I am not satisfied with our level of foreign investments.*

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Estanislao] *That is what we are working on and that is why we are asking the help of these ambassadors.*

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Estanislao] *I am sure that it is a negative factor against investments in the country.* [end recording]

In a related development, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus added that at the meeting between the president and the ambassadors, the possible impact that changes in socialist countries would have on the world economy was also discussed. The debt program of these countries was also raised at the meeting.

Manglapus noted that the Philippines figures prominently as a target of investments from Western Europe because of the vast potential of the region. He also denied that the Philippines competes with East Europe in attracting foreign investments.

[Begin recording] [Manglapus in progress] *...what impact these developments will have on our relations.*

[Reporter] *Sir, did they give assurance given the developments in Eastern Europe?*

[Manglapus] *Oh, yes. The British ambassador was particularly emphatic in saying that while he sees the attention and resources being dedicated to Eastern Europe more and more because of developments there, he does not see that this means that the resources will be deducted out of concerns for relations with Southeast Asia.*

[Reporter] *Sir, when will the bases talks be held?*

[Manglapus] *May 14th.*

[Reporter] *Where and when?*

[Manglapus] *Where, I don't know. I honestly don't know.*

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Manglapus] *Abandoned? All I said is that this is step forward. Obviously you do not explore unless you have intentions of making decisions later on which may or may not lead to negotiations.* [end recording]

Aquino Statement on Emergency Powers Extension

HK1904111390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Statement by President Corazon Aquino as read by presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna from Malacanang Palace—live or recorded in English]

[Text] This is the statement of the president in answer to your questions, answers to questions submitted to her today.

Number 1. Freedom of the press is enshrined and guaranteed under our constitution. To defend and protect the constitution is the best way to ensure that freedom. This precisely is what we have done and are doing against enemies of our constitutional democracy of whatever kind. That the mutiny of last December intended to destroy not only freedom of the press, but our constitution itself and all the freedoms there under can hardly be doubted. The documents mentioned have merely confirmed what we all really already know.

Number 2. We have indeed agreed to sit down with representatives of the United States for exploratory talks starting on May 14, 1990 to assess the prospects of holding negotiations towards a treaty covering the American military facilities in Philippine territory after September 16, 1991. We have thus opted to talk first instead of stating outright that we are against the bases staying here beyond 1991 under any conditions. That latter posture, therefore, is one option we did not take. As matters stand then, we are going into exploratory talks. Whether or not we will have those negotiations will depend on how the exploratory talks go.

Number 3. The purpose of the grant of emergency powers was to optimize efforts to reconstruct our economy. The powers granted, however, were specific and limited. I have effectively used these powers:

A. To stabilize the market of basic commodities—one, providing for price ceilings of certain prime commodities in the national capital region and of rice nationwide; two, directing emergency measures to protect the people from hoarding, profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices, and other pernicious practices; three, providing measures to be undertaken in the labor front; four, directing the secretary of transportation and communications to declare all bus companies plying Metro Manila to operate their road worthy buses until midnight.

B. To secure the nation from further assault—one, providing for a new general registration of firearms and directing the inventory of all armaments, firearms, ammunitions, explosives, and explosive ingredients and military equipage; two, providing guidelines for the recovery and surrender of loose, unaccounted or unlicenced armaments, firearms, ammunitions, explosives, explosive ingredients and military equipage; three, directing the air transportation office to temporarily take over or direct the operation of all private air transportation fields, strips and facilities; four, directing the air transportation office to investigate involvement of certain privately-owned aircrafts, the owners and pilots in the 1989 mutiny or rebellion.

C. To speed up urgent infrastructure projects—one, authorizing the secretary of public works and highways to adopt fast track procedures for awarding urgent infrastructure projects and for securing urgent consultancy services, supplies, materials and equipments.

D. To fast track badly needed imports of transportation units, spare parts, construction materials, and power turbines—one, modifying the rates of import duties on certain articles under the Tariff and Customs Code.

These I did while balancing the needs of the basic free nature of economy and our democratic freedom and institutions.

Now, things have returned to near normal level, but it may be too soon to drop our guard, hence, my initial view that we may need these powers for a little more time. But I shall take this up with leaders of Congress.

Army Chief Testifies Before Davide Commission

Mindanao Aid for Next Coup

HK2004032790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 20 Apr 90 p 6

[By Joey Caburnida]

[Text] Big landowners in Mindanao, who oppose the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carp), are likely to give financial and logistic support to right-wing extremists in case of another coup attempt, a ranking military official said yesterday.

Testifying before the Davide Commission, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores, Philippine Army chief, said that while most of the civilians in Mindanao do not support any attempt to overthrow the Government, it is very likely that landlords will provide material assistance to renegade soldiers plotting another coup.

Flores was reacting to a question posed by Commission Chairman Hilario Davide Jr. on whether there are signs that another coup might trigger an uprising in Mindanao.

Mindanao landowners have been very vocal in criticizing the Carp, the centerpiece program of the Aquino Administration, saying it will deprive them of their right over their lands.

In his testimony, Flores also revealed that renegade Col. Alexander Noble, formerly of the Presidential Security Group and one of the suspected leaders of the failed December putsch, is operating an illegal logging concession in Barangay Salug, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

Flores said the militry has worked out a plan to capture Noble. He did not elaborate but indicated that operations to capture Noble would be fully implemented immediately after the establishment of the Mindanao autonomous region.

He also said rightist groups, led by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, Marcos loyalist forces, and the shadowy Young Officers Union (YOU), pose a bigger threat to the government than the communist insurgents.

Admits Scout Rangers Not Disbanded

HK2004014590 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Philippine Army Chief Brigadier General Guillermo Flores admitted that the controversial Scout Rangers division has not been dismantled as earlier believed. Testifying before the Davide Fact Finding Commission at the DBP [Development Bank of the Philippines] Office in Makati, Flores said the rangers are now operating on division and not on battalion scale. Flores defended the rangers, saying that they are effective in nonconventional warfare against dissidents. What is needed, according to Flores, is to equip this elite force in small groups.

Adaza, Five Others Charged With Rebellion

HK1904112990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Charges of rebellion with murder and frustrated murder were filed today by the government against former Assemblyman Homobono Adaza and five others. The charges were filed before the Quezon City Trial Court in connection with their alleged involvement in the December coup attempt.

An arrest warrant against the six is expected to be issued today by a Quezon City judge following the filing of charges by Department of Justice prosecutors. The conspirators of Adaza were identified as renegade Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel, Edgardo Abenina Jr., and businessmen Medardo Pestano, Chrismel Verano and Joaquin Venus Jr.

Detained Officer Reveals Corruption in Logistics

HK1904093190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Apr 90 pp 1, 12

[By Danny C. Petilla]

[Text] A detained Navy captain yesterday testified before the Davide Commission that widespread graft and corruption at the Armed Forces Logistics Command [Logcom] was one of the reasons rebel soldiers supported the failed December coup.

Capt. Proceso Maligalig, former deputy chief of Logcom, revealed in detail the modus operandi of military officials allegedly involved in anomalies like the overpricing of military uniforms and supplies, the so-called "conversion" deals and the "five-six loans."

Detained since March 12, 1990, for his alleged participation in the aborted coup, Maligalig said irregularities were wide spread at all levels in the Armed Forces.

Testifying under oath outside his cell at Camp Crame, Maligalig told the commission investigating the December coup attempt that the most common form of corruption openly practised in the military is what he called conversion. "Conversion" involves the creation of artificial needs and the allocation of a budget for their purchase to skirt Commission on Audit [COA] rules and regulations. "This (conversion) has become the rule rather than the exception and it is happening at all levels in the Armed Forces," Maligalig told the commission.

A graduate of PMA [Philippine Military Academy] Class '69 and management graduate at AIM [Asian Institute of Management], the Navy captain also revealed to the commission the names of officials involved in the irregularities in a closed-door executive session.

Maligalig said other irregularities involve the so-called "five-six" loan scheme where enlisted men get their salaries in advance with a minimal amount retained by the paymaster to the detriment of most enlisted men. He said this practice is done by most military paymasters in connivance with private financiers.

"Sometimes dead soldiers and those on AWOL are still on pay status," he said, and added that unscrupulous military officials claimed these salaries for themselves in behalf of dead soldiers and those under AWOL.

Maligalig also confirmed the anomalous purchase of CAFGU [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit] uniforms at the Logcom which was exposed by the INQUIRER last year. The INQUIRER series revealed that 86,622 CAFGU uniforms were overpriced at about P [pesos] 60 each, resulting in a total government loss of P5 million. The story triggered the advance retirement of Logcom chief Brig. Gen. Buenaventura Tabo, allegedly to shield him from prosecution for malversation of public funds.

Maligalig said the military purchaser, the COA auditor and the manufacturer connived with each other in these dubious deals.

"What the soldiers get are inflated prices and inferior quality of supplies," he said.

Maligalig, who was officer of the day at Logcom when the coup attempt started on Nov. 30, also presented a white paper before the commission revealing in detail what he perceived was the military mindset prior to the putsch.

Before the session, Maligalig promised to document his charges and present them to the commission if junior officers would help him. He said, however, that he feared incriminating these officers further as most of them have been under surveillance for their alleged role in the failed coup.

Young Military Officers Oppose Rightist Violence

HK1904093990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 19 Apr 90

[By Eloi Aquino of Mobile Unit No. 12]

[Text] Young military officers belonging to the Concerned Young Officers of the Armed Forces of the Phillippines [CYOAFP] denounced the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] for using violence. In a manifesto released today, the group composed of new lieutenants and captains said they are not in favor of a bloody rebellion. They urged unity in the military in bringing about peaceful and democratic change.

In the same manifesto, they opposed the RAM-SFP-YOU view that a bloody revolution is the only solution for change. According to them, there are two considerations. The first is self-destructive, while the other will challenge them to be more stable and wise, which will lead to a lasting peace. The CYOAFP also said that ignorance and high anxiety are the real enemies, and they will not be resolved by the use of force. The young officers added that killing each other will never solve any problem.

Another Detained Rebel Official Dies in Hospital

HK2004094390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Apr 90

[By Eloi Aquino of Mobile Unit No. 12]

[Text] A high-ranking Philippine Navy official who was linked to the December 1989 coup died at the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Medical Center last Wednesday [18 April]. Military sources said that Navy Lieutenant Commander Franco Koromeng died of a heart ailment at around 1120. Koromeng was the duty officer when the failed coup took place. He was captured on December 30 and imprisoned at Sangley Point Naval Air Station in Cavite City. The following day he was brought to the Sangley Point Station Hospital after he complained of difficulty in breathing. He remained there until last Wednesday as he was transferred to the AFP Medical Center because his condition became serious. Koromong is the second rebel officer who has died in detention. Last 16 February, Navy Captain Fermin Cuisa, also linked to the December coup, died of a heart ailment at the Camp Crame Station Hospital.

Foreign Support to Communists Said Declining

HK1904121790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1200 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign support to the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] has declined drastically. This was announced by Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Manuel Yan, who attributed the decline to the realization of foreign countries that insurrection is a domestic problem. Yan also cited the Soviet Union's declaration of support for the Aquino government. He added that communist countries like China and North Korea did not provide any assistance to the New People's Army.

Meanwhile, Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos stressed that communist influence has diminished and expressed confidence that the government's counterinsurgency campaign will succeed.

Further on Communist Counterfeiting Charge

Rift 'Threatening To Split' CPP

HK1804104590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[By Jim de Lozano from Camp Crame]

[Text] A serious political and ideological rift is threatening to split the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its political arm, the National Democratic Front [NDF] following the discovery of the CPP-NDF's involvement in currency counterfeiting and other criminal activities overseas. This was revealed in documents seized from communist leader Antonio Cabardo. The same documents reported that an NDF contact was allegedly arrested by Swiss authorities on 21 February for trying to deposit counterfeit money in a bank.

PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief Cesar Nazareno said that the seized documents revealed that NDF Chairman Jose Maria Sison and other members of the CPP's international department severely reprimanded communist leader Antonio Cabardo and other international liaison group members for ignoring and disregarding the need to raise the ideological awareness of those involved in the illegal undertaking.

Leaders Charged With Wasting Funds

HK2004014790 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A letter sent to Officer-in-Charge of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] Benito Tiamzon by captured rebel leader Antonio Cabardo said that CPP Chairman Jose Maria Sison and other CPP leaders are spending party funds for social functions and leisure activities. In his letter, Cabardo also said that he was worried that the international police organization and the U.S. Secret Service may get on the tracks of CPP legal personalities because of the discovery of the CPP's dollar counterfeiting activities.

Cabardo stressed strong suspicion that the Philippine Government or the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] have deep penetration agents in the CPP's international department.

Funds Traced to Hong Kong Bank

HK1804035390 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 18 Apr 90 p 1

[By Jamie Allen]

[Text] The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is part of a system used by Filipino communist rebels to move their money around the world, Philippine police said yesterday.

The Philippine constabulary said part of U.S.$1.3 million (HK$10.14 million) seized from a rebel commander in Switzerland in February had been traced to an account held by a Filipino at a branch of the Hong Kong Bank in the territory.

But a senior bank official denied any knowledge of the affair last night and said he was also unaware of anything like this happening in the past. "We certainly are not aware of it," said general manager, Mr Paul Selway-Swift. He said there are guidelines put out by the Commissioner of Banking to assist banks when they find cases of criminal abuse of the banking system.

He said closing the account might be one option, but the bank would not do anything without taking legal advice.

The Philippine constabulary said communist rebels were involved in counterfeiting and other criminal activities in Western Europe to raise funds to buy weapons for their 21-year-old insurgency. The constabulary said evidence of rebel activity in Europe was found in documents seized when agents arrested Antonio Cabardo, an alleged deputy commander of the New People's Army.

Cabardo was arrested this month after returning to Manila from Hong Kong.

According to the constabulary, Adolphus Hautvast, alleged chairman of a rebel front organisation in Utrecht, Holland, was arrested in February in Geneva trying to deposit the U.S.$1.3 million in several banks used by the banned Communist Party of the Philippines. The constabulary said 10 percent of Hautvast's funds were counterfeit. According to the statement, some of the funds seized in Geneva were traced to Hong Kong and to the account of a Jose Francisco Arriola at a Hong Kong Bank branch.

Arriola was identified by the constabulary as an official of the party's international liaison group, which is responsible for raising funds and buying weapons abroad.

Military Kills 11 in Cagayan NPA Camp Attack

HK2004033190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Apr 90 pp 1, 12

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Rizal, Cagayan—Constabulary troopers backed by two helicopter gunships overran a camp of the rebel New People's Army (NPA) Wednesday in the tri-boundary of Rizal, Sto. Nino, and Lasam towns, this province.

The troopers killed 11 NPA guerillas and wounded several others as evidenced by the bloodstains along the rebels' escape route. They also recovered two heavy-duty bulldozers and several high-powered guns after at least two hours of fighting.

Lt. Col. Persie M. Aldava, Cagayan PC [Philippine Constabulary] commander, in his report to Col. Miguel Fontanilla, Recom 2 PC-INP [Integrated National Police] chief, said that he formed five teams that simultaneously proceeded to the Zinundungan Valley after he received a report that fugitive governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo and his men were hiding there.

They failed to find Aguinaldo but stumbled on an NPA camp, Colonel Aldava reported. The government suffered no casualties.

Aldava reported that the rebels left medical facilities and equipment, two Armalite rifles, and a .30 caliber Garand rifle.

The two bulldozers were reportedly owned by a logger from Pampanga and were seized by the rebels in 1987 after the logger refused to pay the "progressive tax" to the underground movement.

Forty-six suspected NPA supporters were arrested after they admitted forming a "provisional revolutionary government" in the Zinundungan Valley. Aldava has filed charges of violations of Presidential Decree No. 1835 before municipal trial court Judge Florentino F. Calica here. Judge Calica recommended P[pesos]12,000 bail each.

Last Monday, Colonel Fontanilla led the dropping of propaganda leaflets by helicopter in the towns of Baggao, Gattaran, Buguey, Sta. Ana, Alcala, Gonzaga, and Sta. Teresita. The leaflets contain the picture of Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and the notice that a reward of P500,000 in cash will be given for information leading to his capture.

Fontanilla said the reward money was put up by businessmen but he has recommended to Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa that the reward be raised to P1 million.

MNLF-RAM Alliance Attempt Reportedly Fails

HK2004094790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Apr 90

[By Jennifer Postigo of Mobile Unit No. 18—italicized portions in English]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and the Bangso Moro [Moro Homeland] Islamic Party will not enter into an alliance with the RAM-SFP [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People] because they have different political objectives. In the Alps Coffee Forum, Doctor Firdausi Abbas said that although rebel colonel Gringo Honasan invited the two secessionist groups to an alliance, the renegade soldier failed to convince both leaderships. The latter would like to establish an independent republic, while the RAM-SFP plans to overthrow the current administration and set up its own government.

[Begin Abbas recording] *I don't know if the RAM's political objective is to establish an independent republic because what I know is that the RAM is after the overthrow of this government and establish their own ruling junta. The Moro National Liberation Front under Misuari has for its political objective the establishment of an independent Bangsa Moro Islamic Republic composed of the whole island of Mindanao, Palawan, Basilan, Sulu, and Taw-Tawi. So I don't see any basis for coalition since the political objectives are different.* [end recording]

Doctor Firdausi Abbas also explained the main reason why Nur Misuary forged a tactical alliance with the National Democratic Front and the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas [PDSP—Socialist Democratic Party of the Philippines].

[Begin Abbas recording] *I know for a fact that Misuari has entered into an alliance with the National Democratic Front and with the PDSP because both, I think, are pursuing the same cause. And Misuari's Marxist-Leninist leaning has more or less [word indistinct] into precisely entering into this agreement.* [end recording]

Central Bank Records Show Capital Withdrawal Up

HK1904090590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 18 Apr 90 p 15

[By Lindablue Romero]

[Text] Foreign investors have been quietly divesting from the Philippines and last year such capital withdrawal reached $95 million, according to Central Bank records. Although foreign investments still continue to flow in, the records also reveal that the outflow was far greater for the period 1986 to 1989.

This is contrary to claims made by the department of trade and industry that foreign investors infused huge amounts of capital into the country during the past four years of the Aquino administration.

Foreign capital inflow last year reached only $93 million, the statistics show.

New foreign investments in the Philippines amounted to $17 million in 1986, $34 million in 1987 and $81 million in 1988.

On the other hand, investments withdrawn from the country doubled compared to the amount coming in with about $35 million in 1986, $58 million in 1987 and $74 million in 1988.

In a position paper submitted to the joint legislative review on foreign investments, CB Senior Deputy Gov. Gabriel Singson cited two non-financial incentives which he thinks are "the best incentives" the government can give. The first, he said, consists of efficient delivery of basic support services and infrastructure in telecommunications, power and transportation. The second is the achievement of a general perception of political stability in the country.

Thailand

Chatchai on Sihanouk's Rejection of Tokyo Talks

BK2004062190 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Answering questions from newsmen this morning at Government House about the reported refusal by Prince Sihanouk to meet with other Cambodian leaders in Japan as proposed by that country, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan said he has not been informed about the matter. He said that if the prince does not want to go to the meeting in Japan, then he does not have to go. In any event, the prince explained why he did not want to meet with other Cambodian leaders to help solve the Cambodian problem.

The prime minister said that he believed Japan is sincerely interested in playing a part in solving the Cambodian problem in order to quickly restore peace in Cambodia. Japan is a member of the third committee on the reconstruction of Cambodia. This is why Chatchai is confident that Japan's desire to solve the Cambodian problem is sincere.

Asked about the Thai proposal for a meeting between China, Thailand, and Vietnam on the Cambodian problem, the prime minister said that he is awaiting a response from China on whether or not it will attend. The meeting could be an avenue for bringing peace to Cambodia.

Tokyo's Entrance in Cambodia Talks Arena Viewed

BK2004012790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 90 p 4

[Anurat Maniphan commentary: "Cambodia Peace March—Next Stop Tokyo?"]

[Text] A stalemate seems to have set in as to how many leaders should be involved in the next round of intra-Cambodian talks, effectively delaying the peace process however tactical and politically well-founded the positions may be. The options are well-known: bilateral talks between Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen or quadrilateral talks among all four warring factions, that is including also the Khmer Rouge and the non-communist Khmers loyal to Mr Son Sann.

To be fair, there are pros and cons for and against both formulas but perhaps a mediator of United Nations or international standing could tell all concerned what is best for the eight million people inside Cambodia and along the Thai-Cambodian border. Even the ordinary newspaper reader is aware that compassion is wearing very thin—for politicians essentially quarrelling over principles—and certain ground details—when the Cambodian people are being bled white, psychologically, culturally and economically—not to mention the futile losses on the battlefield.

The new peacemaking ball has been set rolling by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's suggestion that Tokyo host a new round of bilateral talks between Prince Sihanouk and Mr Hun Sen.

Though the prime minister's argument has been left publically unstated, he seems to be saying that the absence of the Khmer Rouge may be more conducive to a settlement. When Prince Sihanouk parried by saying that all four Cambodian factions should participate in a new round of peace talks, he also had a point. The Khmer Rouge must be included in any peace-talking otherwise they simply will not respect the terms of any agreement that ensues, his argument goes.

The common denominator is the awareness of both sides that the followers of Pol Pot succeeded to block proceedings at the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC] by making maximum use of their veto rights. Some 21 countries, however, participated in the PICC which adopted the unanimity rule.

Prince Sihanouk also made an apt reminder when he said that decisions within the resistance coalition are reached by unanimity. The question of formula has only just begun and tacticians supposedly will drop or edge back their walls of fundamental or pro forma discontent when time is right for their side.

The heartening factor is that Japan and its diplomats have done work on Gen Chatchai's proposal. Senior Japanese diplomats were received by Prince Sihanouk at Sereipheap residence on the Cambodian border earlier this week, when he apparently turned down the invitation for bilateral talks—but let be known his willingness to participate in four-party negotiations.

Gen Chatchai's proposal, though not a stroke of genius, was logical—for Cambodians have met and will have to meet again and again, in different capitals of the world.

Strategically important were the timing of the suggestion and the target date for the event.

A dry spell had set in after the disappointments of the International Meeting on Cambodia and the idea apparently is for Cambodians to meet before the Five Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council gather again for consultations on Cambodia mid-May. No less important is the fact that Japan was asked to play host. Japan has financial clout over the conflicting Cambodian parties as a leading provider of humanitarian aid channelled through the United Nations and private voluntary agencies.

It is also known to be in a position to provide much more economic means than others if and when there is a comprehensive solution to this long-drawn problem. At the same time, it stands to enhance its status as a growing political power in the region and the world, not least of all because the yen reigns supreme and has become an economic indicator international businessmen monitor with bated breath.

"They are working hard on it, on the prime minister's proposal for intra-Khmer talks in Tokyo," an informed diplomatic source said of proponents. The idea of having talks in Tokyo, pending a decision on the formula, is probably well received among Khmers.

Judging from just what happens on the ground on the journalistic level, it seems that Tokyo does inspire a certain krengjai, or sense of obligation, among the rival factions—as well as promise of huge publicity gains from the voracious readers in Japan. In Phnom Penh, Japanese journalists seem to enjoy a certain edge over counterparts from other countries in terms of consideration and treatment from authorities. A Japanese news agency, for example, was one of the first media teams to be allowed a base in the Cambodian capital.

The resistance, for their part, seem to frequently have room for Japanese journalists, especially television crews, when an organised or unorganised jaunt is on for the international Press. This applies to the Sihanoukists, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) of Mr Son Sann, as well as the Khmer Rouge.

It may be remembered, for example, that Japanese journalists were among the last reporters to interview Khmer Rouge strongman Pol Pot when he stepped down from political leadership in December 1979. The Khmers' appreciation of Japan may also have historical and moral foundations.

The rival factions, for different reasons, may perceive that Japan is rising to the occasion for much needed leadership in its moment of strength, after a long spell of isolation born of ungracious acts during the Second World War, defeat and loss at Hiroshima.

The Cambodian leaders could draw courage from this work against losses to bring gains for their own people. The regional and international communities for their part are duty-bound to extend concrete help to the peace process as someone, somewhere, at some time, has made or will make gains from Cambodia's rich natural resources.

Some progress would come of talks, whether they are bilateral or quadrilateral. The argument that every situation has its own time-span for unravelling may hold true in general but ancient Angkor is made of stone vulnerable to the ruthless elements and a human being has only one life.

Article Examines State of Relations With China

BK2004031790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Apr 90 p 10

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon: "Thai-China Ties at Crossroads"]

[Text] The invitation to the Dalai Lama to visit Thailand by a nongovernmental organization and the controversy that has followed have once again put Thai-Chinese relations under strain. The government has so far acted uncharacteristically, avoiding a decision on the issue although it can be dealt with promptly.

Despite earlier statements that the Nobel laureate would be allowed to visit Thailand, the Foreign Ministry backed off after M.R. Khukrit Pramot came out to say that Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila should resign if a visa was issued. The ministry passed the buck on to the National Security Council, which also proved incapable of making a decision on the matter. A new meeting, to be chaired by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, is slated to be held within the next two weeks.

It has become clear that this pattern of deferred policy-making is an attempt by the government to make public pressure the determining factor in resolving the issue. There was an outcry from nongovernmental organizations and the public when the Tibetan monk was denied entry in October 1987.

The decision then was enforced by the Foreign Ministry under the supervision of Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, following on strong Chinese pressure.

It is just as clear that public opinion favours the Tibetan's visit, as Thais generally see him as a spiritual leader and a follower of their majority faith. His religious aura in any case is more apparent than his political cause. And so, it is as sure as the sun rising in the morning that the government will issue him a visa, and will be able to claim it was forced to do so by public pressure.

What is depressing is the way the controversy is being domesticated by certain parties for their own ends. Some have used it as a test of the true friendship between Thailand and China while other have made a pitch to Thai nationalism against the Chinese.

But this makes it apparent what the true issue is: Thai-Chinese relations are not what they used to be, contrary to the government's statements and the perception of both nations' leaders. If they are not able to come to grips with this reality, the Dalai Lama's visit could set the tone for future Thai-Chinese relations, for good or for ill.

Whether or not the Dalai Lama ever appears on Thai soil, the controversy has already damaged bilateral ties, between the Thai government's indecisiveness, the pressure the Chinese government has once again been bringing to bear, and the latter's sensitivity to any hint of discussion about China's unity. Both governments need to limit the damage rather than moving along in their familiar roles. The government must come out with a decision fast and the Chinese should stop lobbying officials and academics.

Though it is unlikely, if Thailand does bow to China's pressure once again, the repercussions for future relations will be disastrous. And the government knows it. It is now that Thailand needs to demonstrate its political finesse and independence.

The two countries can no longer rely on the goodwill of the past, or on the personal relations their leaders forged over the years. Indeed, if the current controversy is an indication, it is apparent that relations have already changed. In the past, a matter as small as a visa for the Dalai Lama would not have had such implications. Bargaining is likely to get tougher between the two governments, and cooperation on a personal level is likely to become less common.

Bilateral ties have already been weakened by a series of issues about the Cambodian conflict, which ironically was one of the major factors that brought good relations to their zenith in 1979. The common position on Cambodia is wearing thin, not because Thailand and China are losing interest in one another, but because of how the two countries are reacting to developments within the region and the world.

Naturally, Thailand must be more flexible, given its proximity to Cambodia as compared to a distant China. When Chatchai came to power, Beijing hoped he would further strengthen the ties he helped create under the Khukrit government. But its enthusiasm quickly evaporated into unspeakable frustrations over Thailand's new policy on Indochina.

As Thailand asserts its independence, trade and defence issues will also be likely to shake up the relationship. During a visit to China in March, Sitthi expressed Thailand's concern that Beijing had failed to purchase 150,000-300,000 tons of Thai rice and 50,000-100,000 tons of rubber as specified in a trade accord.

And sooner or later the Taiwan factor will make itself felt. Individually, there are more Taiwanese investors with interests in Thailand than Japanese. Taiwan's overall capital ranks second to Japan, leading the third-placed United States. It is no secret that the Far East Trade Office, "representing" the government of the Republic of China in Thailand, has gradually turned their economic presence into political pressure by asking for more recognition and cooperation. The office has already asked for an upgrade of its presence with a longer visa stay.

All things considered, the proposed visit of the Dalai Lama is just a prelude to a less stable future. It is time for Thailand and China to understand that there are limits to improving their relations. In the past, Thailand based its policy toward China on its antagonism with the Soviet Union and Vietnam. Now that has passed, given changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and Vietnam's preoccupation with its internal affairs.

Still, Thailand cannot afford to lose China. In fact, no country can. Even after the Tiananmen massacre, Chatchai went to Beijing, giving implied support of Beijing's justification for the crackdown in the process. It is time Beijing comes to that kind of understanding in regard to Thailand's pending decision. Without any adjustment on the Chinese side, it will be done in by its persistence. But given China's strategic and geo-political interests in Thailand and vice-versa, both sides need a cool-headed reevaluation of relations.

Thailand is changing fast and the experience of new policymakers is different from their older colleagues. The younger generation does not personally identify with China, unlike some of our old guard, including academics, who have been blind to some extent when it came to seeing the real China. It is inevitable that some hard bargaining, based on equal relations, is needed for productive cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Sources Say Taiwan Commercial Office Approved

BK1804120690 Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese 18 Apr 90 p 16

[Text] The cabinet, in its meeting yesterday, agreed to allow Taiwan to set up a commercial counselor's office to increase Thai-Taiwanese trade.

A source close to the cabinet disclosed that the cabinet's decision was merely aimed at facilitating trade and did not run counter to the Sino-Thai Joint Communique on Establishment of Diplomatic Relations. In principle, the decision to allow Taiwan to set up a commercial counselor's office in Thailand is not tantamount to recognizing the Taiwan regime. The same source also said that the Taiwanese assigned to the commercial counselor's office will be allowed to stay for more than one year.

The source said that seen from any angle, the cabinet's decision does not run counter to Thailand's current foreign policy, especially its diplomatic relations with the PRC. The source pointed out further that on the basis of mutually beneficial trade, Thailand also can set up a commercial counselor's office in Taiwan to facilitate trade affairs.

The source also said that bilateral trade between Taiwan and Thailand in last year increased to 37.442 billion baht. The Thai side was suffering a deficit. To improve bilateral trade, the proposal to allow Taiwan to set up the said commercial counselor's office was approved. This is expected to benefit Thai exports to Taiwan. At present, there are still some obstacles for Thai exports to Taiwan.

It is reported that at yesterday's cabinet meeting, Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwannakhiri had asked about the pros and cons for Thailand if this Commerce Ministry proposal was approved. Commerce Minister Subin Pinkhayan replied that benefits from this decision depend on further talks with the other side. However, the notable benefits are that the export of some Thai products to Taiwan, such as coffee and fruits, will increase.

Subin said that this plan was proposed by Taiwan for consideration, not initiated by Thailand.

Territorial Loss at Malaysian Border Questioned

BK1904143790 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 18 Apr 90 p 18

[Article by Chaiyon Maniphiruk: "Territory Loss"]

[Text] The no-man's land between the Thai-Malaysian border at border marker No. 279 has a total area of 148,000 square meters. According to the map issued by the Royal Thai Survey Department, the land belongs to Thailand. But, at the latest border demarcation in 1972, the Office of the Regional Border Committee made a mistake when building a concrete fence to prevent smuggling because it did not build the fence in the no-man's land.

For unknown reasons, Malaysia took the opportunity to control the land by building 50 makeshift shops, 150 shophouses, and 30 godowns for goods smuggled from the Thai side. Moreover, at present the authorities of the Perlis State have raised the flag of the state and the Malaysian national flag over the land in order to show its permanent control of the area.

Certainly, Thai officials have not been idle on this problem. In 1989, Somphon Klinphongsa, deputy interior permanent secretary for special affairs, and his delegation, including Royal Thai Survey Department officer Lieutenant Colonel Phayon Thimcharoen, went to inspect the situation and announced clearly that the no-man's land belongs to us. They discovered hard evidence, including the border posts made about 40 years ago. The officials submitted a protest letter to the Malaysian Government and asked it to halt all constructions of buildings until negotiations are held proving to whom the land belongs.

But, at various meetings between officials from the Interior Ministry, the border coordination committee, and the joint regional border committees, Malaysian authorities still insisted on their attitude that the no-man's land belongs to Malaysia. They said that if the land belonged to Thailand, why was no fence built in the area? The Malaysian officials also said that Malaysia did not know what this no-man's land issue was about. They said at the meetings that in mid-April the Malaysian Government will build a customs office and an immigration office at the no-man's land close to Thailand's border fence in order to prevent illegal immigrants and smuggling from Thailand.

If we allow Malaysia to construct official buildings at the area, it means that we allow Malaysia to have its rights over the area and also means that we are willing to cede the area to Malaysia. The authorities should not be idle on this issue. We should hold talks with the Malaysian Government to solve the problem. The loss of territory, no matter whether it is caused by accomplice of some officials or by mistake, will not only be a disgrace for the government but also a disgrace for all the people of Thailand.

If we agreed to capitulate this time, other disputed border areas will gradually be controlled by Malaysia, as well. Are we going to be taken advantage of all the time?

Four Nigerians Arrested With 7 Kilos of Heroin

BK2004010790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Apr 90 p 5

[Text] Customs officials arrested four Nigerians at Don Muang Airport on Wednesday [18 April] and seized 7.4 kgs of heroin from them. They were arrested one day after Aisha Jimeta, the Nigerian ambassador-designate to Thailand, told a senior Foreign Ministry official that not all Nigerians arrested for heroin trafficking are genuine Nigerians but could be African citizens who carried fake Nigerian passports.

The first two,. Rajid Olatanji, 31, and Olusueson, 35, were about to board a Lufthansa flight to Frankfurt when officials found 2.7 kgs of heroin hidden in their luggage, customs officials said. The officials said in another case they found 4.7 kgs of heroin in the luggage of Emmanuel Uvesuohkay, 28, and his brother, Vegasue Uvesuohkay, 31. They were bound for Oman on a Gulf Air flight.

The illicit drug seized from the four Nigerians could be sold at about Bt [baht] 1.5 million in local market and the price could increase to Bt150 million in Europe and the United States, according to the officials. The four suspects are now in police custody at the Crime Suppression Division.

Customs officials in charge of narcotics suppression have arrested a total of 32 Nigerians on drug trafficking charges since January and seized altogether 120 kgs of heroin from the suspects.

Vietnam

Symposium on Leninism, Renovation Opens 18 Apr

BK1904094390 Hanoi VNA in English 0752 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—A symposium titled "Leninism and Renovation in Socialist Construction in Vietnam" was opened here this morning jointly by the Institute of Marxism-Leninism and the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute on the occasion of the 120th birthday of V.I. Lenin (1870-1990).

Among those present were Nguyen Thanh Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee [CC], Dao Duc Binh, member of the CPV CC and director of the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, and Prof. Dang Xuan Ky, alternate member of the CPV CC and director of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism.

Soviet Ambassador to Vietnam D.I Kachin and representatives of the Vietnamese and Soviet mass media were also present.

Nguyen Thanh Binh delivered an opening speech under the theme: "Creatively Applying V.I. Lenin's Ideas on Socialism to the Renovation in Vietnam." After affirming that Marxism-Leninism has always been the theoretical and ideological foundation, guiding the entire revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese people, Nguyen Thanh Binh stressed that by studying Lenin's viewpoint as well as his scientific and creative methods in service of the entire Vietnamese party and people renovation for the success of socialism the Vietnamese scientists would make more worthy contributions.

Ambassador D.I Kachin delivered a speech underlying Lenin's great theoretical and practical contributions to the world revolutionary movement and socialism. He said:

"Speaking about Lenin and the eternal significance of his ideal, we cannot help talking about the influence of his ideas on the outstanding revolutionary of the time, the leader of the Vietnamese people Ho Chi Minh. Lenin's ideas on the national liberation revolution helped Ho Chi Minh link the revolutionary movement at home to that of the world."

The participants also heard Prof. Dang Xuan Ky's speech titled "V.I. Lenin's creative thinking paves the way for new theoretical points on socialism."

Closes 19 Apr

BK1904155990 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—The symposium titled "Leninism and Renovation in Socialist Construction in Vietnam" concluded here today after two days of sitting.

Among those present was Ambassabor D.I. Kachin and other staff members of the Soviet Embassy in Hanoi.

Papers presented by Vietnamese scientists focused on the theme "Leninism in the Current Renovation Process." The participants also dealt with various aspects of the revolutionary struggle of the working class and oppressed people worldwide in each historical period and [words indistinct]. The participants unanimously reaffirmed that Marxism-Leninism remain a firm foundation for advancing the socialist construction in the spirit of applying Leninism creatively to the practical conditions of each country.

Prof. Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and director of the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, said in his sum-up speech:

"The common note of all reports and scientific papers was the affirmation of the role and vitality of Leninism not only in the process of revolutionary development and the world evolution in the past nearly a century but also in the present stage of our time."

He pointed out: "The conclusions made at the symposium have rejected all doubts about Leninism's adaptability to the new changes in the present time, rejected all ideas about the "obsoleteness" and "backwardness" of the Leninist doctrine as well as the "mistake of the Russian road" and rejected all viewpoints that negate the basic principles of Leninism and seek a way to get out of the crisis by deviating from Marxism-Leninism.

The affirmation that Leninism is the creative development of Marxism in the present time is of important significance in principle.

Papers presented at the symposium affirmed that Leninism as well as Marxism-Leninism have been and will be the theoretical and ideological foundations guiding the cause of renovation for the sake of socialism in Vietnam. At the same time to make the renovation a success, it is a must to further develop, concretize, and enrich Marxism-Leninism, making it [words indistinct] situation," he said in conclusion.

Vo Chi Cong Chairs Constitutional Meeting

BK2004042990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Apr 90

["Commission for Constitutional Amendments Communique"—date not given]

[Text] The Commission for Constitutional Amendments convened its third meeting 18-19 April 1990 under the direction of Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong, commission chairman. The commission discussed and voiced opinions aimed at gradually working out a draft program for constitutional amendments. The commission affirmed the amended constitution must strictly abide by the spirit of the National Assembly's resolution, which calls for fundamental, comprehensive amendments to meet requirements in the revolution's new stage. The draft program for constitutional amendments will be worked out in conjunction with development of the Communist Party of Vietnam's platform and its socioeconomic strategy.

The commission decided on a number of issues concerning its organization and operation, and nominated a standing committee and a secretariat, whose job is to proceed with compiling the draft program for constitutional amendments. The commission will work out a plan to seek opinions from a large number of cadres, combatants, and compatriots nationwide so the amended constitution will institutionalize the party's lines and policies in the new stage, reflect the entire people's will and aspirations, and serve as a basic legal foundation for the country's cause of renovation.

Ha Bac Party Committee Disciplines Members

BK1904060290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] In the first three months of the year, the party committee of Ha Bac Province has directed the control committees at all levels to regularly control the party's internal affairs, and to consider and definitively settle all cases involving party members whom the people have denounced or complained about in their letters. Through control, nearly 100 cases of violation of party discipline have been clarified. Disciplinary action has been taken against 51 party members with 22 others removed from party membership. Sixty percent of party members or more had violated policies and law, including 10 percent who had abused their powers by embezzling citizens' property and nearly 40 percent who had infringed on the principles of party activities.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Conference on Population

BK1904091790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] A nationwide conference was held in Hanoi on 17 and 18 April by the National Committee for Population and Family Planning to review work related to population and family planning. Attending the conference were more than 250 delegates, comprising chairmen, vice chairmen, and secretariat heads of population and family planning committees from all provinces, cities, and special zones throughout the country, and representatives of various organs, committees, and sectors concerned and correspondents of news and press agencies and radio and television stations at the central level and in Hanoi. Also present were Comrade Vo Van Kiet, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning; Comrade Pham Song, minister of public health and vice chairman of the National Committee for Population and Family Planning; and representatives from the UN population office and other international organizations in Hanoi.

In his report to the conference, Comrade Pham Song pointed out the efforts made by various echelons, sectors, and localities to jointly direct and supervise the performance of family planning work, especially in the domains of propaganda and education to improve society's knowledge of this work, as well as to expand the public health and primary healthcare and family planning service networks to all localities and establishments to serve the people. He also put special emphasis on the financial support and great, effective assistance—in terms of material, morale, and experience—given to work related to mother and child care and family planning by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the World Health Organization.

Speaking at the conference, many delegates affirmed the achievements in population and family planning work in recent years. They also pointed out some existing shortcomings in work related to population and family planning, such as the lack of concentrated guidance; the practice of assigning this work indiscriminately to the public health sector by certain localities; the failure of many localities to pay adequate attention to propaganda and education activities to improve the people's knowledge; the imposition of restrictions on investment; and the uneven capacity of the service networks, especially in remote areas. It is these shortcomings that have caused the rate of population growth to remain high compared with the requirements.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Vo Van Kiet spoke highly of the results obtained in work related to population and family planning. He said: In the days ahead, population and family planning work must be linked to common changes in the country and carried out deeply and broadly with more diversified and effective contents. This work must also become a deep, broad movement closely linked to the daily life of the people of all strata and age groups and in all parts of the country.

The conference passed a resolution on the guidelines and measures for the struggle to achieve the population and family planning targets set for the 1990-95 period.

210,000 Nomads Settled in Hoang Lien Son

BK1804132590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 17 Apr 90

["Article" by station correspondents Nguyen Ven and Nhu Dien: "Hoang Lien Son After 22 Years of Promoting Settled Farming and Settled Life"]

[Summary] "Over the past 22 years of promoting settled farming and settled life, Hoang Lien Son Province has successfully helped 210,000 out of 300,000 ethnic minority people to settle down for sedentary life and farming." In the past, these minority people lived a nomadic life with a backward farming method. "In the meantime, the remaining hilltribe compatriots have been assisted in one way or another so they can improve their living conditions and gradually do away with slash-and-burn farming. The past 22 years also witnessed the completion of some 400 small- and large-sized irrigation works and hydroelectric power projects in support of a 6,000-hectare wasteland reclamation program."

Local ethnic minority compatriots have planted various kinds of crops in the direction of intensive cultivation and multicropping. "As a result, almost all villages have become self-sufficient in terms of grain production." In addition, a number of rural communication networks and other public utility projects have been built. Some 20-50 percent of the funds for these projects were provided by the state while the rest was shared by the people. After local ethnic minority compatriots had settled down and stabilized grain production, the provincial settled farming and settled life committee helped them grow a number of special crops and medical plants of high economic value.

Over the past 22 years, Hoang Lien Son Province encountered countless difficulties and obstacles while campaigning for settled farming and settled life among local ethnic minority compatriots. These problems were caused mainly by local ethnic minority people's ways of life and traditions. In addition, one must cite other drawbacks in capital and production orientations.

At present, some 100,000 ethnic minority compatriots still lead a nomadic or semi-nomadic life in various remote highlands throughout the province. Therefore, the provincial settled farming and settled life committee deemed it necessary to work out a better way to help these people shift to sedentary life and farming. With the support of the provincial people's committee, a corporation has been set up to provide services to the settled farming and settled life program. The corporation is responsible for project development under the direct guidance of the settled farming and settled life committee. The new organizational method is believed to provide better results because it will help make the best use of state-provided capital. As the next move, the corporation will apply for bank loans to build various projects in support of production and life of ethnic minority compatriots in remote highlands.

Ambassador Says Investors Should 'Tread Warily'

BK2004015390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 90 p 4

[By Patricia Elliot]

[Text] Vietnam is drafting new laws to smooth the way for foreign investment, but first-time investors should still tread warily, according to Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Trung. "We plan to pass new laws, especially in the areas of finance and banking, to protect private-sector ownership," Mr Nguyen said at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. There will also be amendments to the current investment code to allow foreign investment in the Vietnamese private sector. Mr Nguyen said new economic plans to attract investment would be announced by the end of this year or early 1991 in preparation for the Seventh Party Congress. The new laws will address some of the problems encountered since Vietnam opened its doors to foreign investment in 1986.

In a frank address, Mr Nguyen outlined some of the current problems associated with doing business in his country. He described efforts to build a more open economy as "an extremely difficult and painful process." Few people correctly estimated the difficulties Vietnam would encounter in trying to find a niche in the world economy, he said. War, poverty and "our own mistakes" had left Vietnam economically handicapped while reform efforts of the past three years had been hampered by rampant inflation and poor infrastructure, he said. "In fact the results (of reforms) were less than expected," Mr Nguyen remarked. He quoted foreign minister Nguyen Co Thach: "Vietnam is the only place in the world where the price of one single egg is equal to the price of six kilogrammes of steel." But in the past year, inflation has been lowered to acceptable levels and exports reached a total of $1.8 billion in 1989, up 80.7 percent over 1988. "All this is just some modest but encouraging steps on the right track. What is of significance is that Vietnam, for the first time, enjoyed a relatively stable year, which is a good stepping-stone for the next few years."

Mr Nguyen said foreign businessmen should enter the market carefully and slowly. He said Vietnamese partners were afraid of making bad deals or losing control of activities due to their inexperience. Mr Nguyen advised businessmen to undergo a process of "clarification" or "persuasion" before entering into negotiations. "The process of clarification or persuasion would vary depending on topics of discussion. However, it also depends a great deal on the part of foreign businessmen as to how good they are in clarification or persuasion." Mr Nguyen said Vietnam was no exception to the bureaucracy and corruption that exists in other countries. But this "visible" problem was easier to deal with than more subtle problems of mistrust and inexperience, he said. "First, removal of mistrust, then business" is the ambassador's stock advice to prospective investors. The new legal infrastructure would help alleviate mistrust, he said, adding that openness and candour were needed but foreign businessmen should avoid lecturing their Vietnamese counterparts.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr Nguyen said cross-border trade with China was "flourishing." He also said the Vietnamese Government would do everything possible to speed up normalisation with China. "China and Vietnam have no other choice but to normalise their relations," he stressed. As to events in Eastern Europe, Mr Nguyen said the impact of workers returning from former Eastern-bloc countries would not be felt until their current contracts expired. He said Vietnam already had an unemployment problem since half of Vietnamese troops had been demobilised. He expressed optimism that the country had time to adjust to this problem and to the changing nature of Soviet aid. He said Vietnam still received money from the Soviet Union but now it was in the form of loans. "From now on, Vietnam's relations with foreign countries must be based on the principle of mutual benefit," he said.

Journal Views Shift in Export-Import Trend

BK2004085590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 18 Apr 90

[From press review for 18 Apr]

[Text] Reviewing export-import activities for the first quarter of this year, KINH TE DOI NGOAI [EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS] calls attention to a number of issues that need to be solved: Export-import activities during this year's first quarter were strongly influenced by events in Eastern Europe, thus raising the need for a shift in direction regarding our export-import activities. In the initial period, this shift will naturally cause big difficulties that totally upset business thinking and methods as well as the structure of export-import goods. If we readily and quickly recognize the nature and specific content of this shift, we can reduce difficulties and passiveness and, at the same time, bring about a new step of progress to adapt ourselves to the more stringent conditions of the international market. On the other hand, if we fail to study the situation and let things go on as usual, we will meet with big difficulties, the consequences of which are unfathomable.

Insects Ravage 70,000 Ha of Rice in Ha Nam Ninh

BK2004094590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] At present, as many as 70,000 hectares [ha] of fifth-month spring rice in Ha Nam Ninh Province have been ravaged by leaf rollers. In some localities, the density of baby leaf rollers is up to 100 insects per square meter.

Along with setting up steering committees for the control of insects and diseases in all districts, the provincial branch of the vegetation protection department has sent technical cadres together with 142 metric tons of insecticides to all cooperatives to provide prompt guidance for the spraying of insecticides. Technical cadres have also been assigned to cooperatives that have no vegetation protection teams to guide them in spraying insecticides on the infested rice areas. To date, insecticides have been sprayed on more than 30,000 hectares of fifth-month spring rice in the province. Meanwhile, the provincial vegetation protection sector has closely followed developments in the insect and disease situation to ensure that insecticides are promptly sprayed on the infested areas to prevent insects and diseases from spreading to other localities.

VNA Says Khmer Rouge 'Condemned' at Seminar

BK1904095490 Hanoi VNA in English 0731 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—The Khmer Rouge was condemned for their genocidal crime in Cambodia at a seminar held in Quebec, Canada, on April 10-13 by the International Peace Academy (IPA).

The seminar, attended by diplomats and scholars from the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, France, China, Great Britain, Vietnam, Cambodia, Australia, ASEAN countries, etc., aimed to help in the search of an effective solution to the Cambodian issue.

Most speakers pointed to the Khmer Rouge as the main obstacle to a solution.

Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head of the Vietnam's permanent mission in the United Nations, attended and addressed the seminar.

The "League of Free Khmer", an organization of Cambodian nationals in the United States, on April 17 issued a statement demanding an end to all foreign military aid to the Khmer Rouge and the ousting of these criminals from the Cambodian seat at the United Nations. They must be brought to an international tribunal, the statement demanded.

Cambodian Party Commission Delegation Arrives

BK1904093990 Hanoi VNA in English 0750 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—A delegation of the Commission for Organization of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee [PRPKCC] arrived in Hanoi today for a working visit.

The delegation, led by Mrs. Men Sam-An, Politburo member and secretary of the P.R.P.K.C.C. and head of its Commission for Organization, was welcomed by Nguyen Duc Tam, Politburo member and Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and head of its Commission for Organization and others.

Cambodian Ambassador Tep Hen was also on hand.

Protocol on Goods Exchange Signed With DPRK

BK1904031890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] At the invitation of our government, a DPRK Government trade delegation led by Comrade Kang Chong-mo, vice minister of foreign trade, paid a working visit to our country from 10 to 17 April. During the visit, the delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum. On 16 April, Vice Minister of Industry Le Kim Nang and Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Kang Chong-mo, on behalf of the SRV and DPRK Governments respectively, signed a protocol on goods exchange and payment for 1990 between the two countries. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Comrade Hoang Minh Thang, member of the Party Central Committee and our country's minister of foreign trade.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Laos 11 Apr

BK2004075990 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Apr 20—An agreement on cooperation in the supply of equipment and materials, personnel training and improvement of communication in the fields of transportation, posts, construction and civil aviation between Vietnam and Laos for 1990 was signed in Ho Chi Minh City on April 11.

Signatories were Dang Quoc Than, director general of the Vietnamese General Corporation of Posts and Telecommunication, and Bouathong, Lao minister of communication, transport, posts and construction, who led a delegation on a week-long visit to Vietnam early this month.

The Lao delegation was received by Dong Sy Nguyen, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and had working sessions with the posts and communication general corporation under the Ministry of Transport and Posts, the Ministry of Construction and the Vietnam Olympic Committee. It visited a number of production establishments, mines and technical schools in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and some southern provinces.

Australia, UN To Aid Thanh Hoa Rehabilitation

BK1904100490 Hanoi VNA in English 0741 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—The Australian Government has announced that it will provide funds of 73,000 dollars to help in rehabilitation work in Thanh Hoa Province, 150 km south of Hanoi, which was severely hit during the 1989 typhoon season. The grant will be spent for the purchase of building materials to reconstruct the Quang Xuong District hospital and other damaged buildings in the province.

For its part, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has agreed to donate 50,000 dollars to guarantee the quality of constructions erected with the Australian funds. Part of the U.N.D.P. contribution will also be used to reconstruct a primary school, also in Quang Xuong District, and to cover the services involved in a disaster preparedness project in the former province of Binh Tri Thien, now divided into Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue Provinces in central Vietnam.

CPV Greets Danish Communist Party Congress

BK1904101490 Hanoi VNA in English 0747 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 18—The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] has extended its warm greetings to the 30th Congress of the Danish Communisty Party.

It wished the Danish Communist Party new successes in leading the working class and labouring people in their struggle for livelihood, democracy, peace and social progress, thus making a positive contribution to struggle for peace, national independence democracy and social progress in the world.

It expressed its wish for the constant consolidation and development of the solidarity and friendship between the two parties and peoples, and thanked the Danish Communist Party and people for their warm support for the Vietnamese people's national construction and defence.

Moscow Paper Interviews Nguyen Van Linh

For reportage on an IZVESTIYA interview in Hanoi with Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, see the Southeast Asia & Pacific section of the 19 April issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.